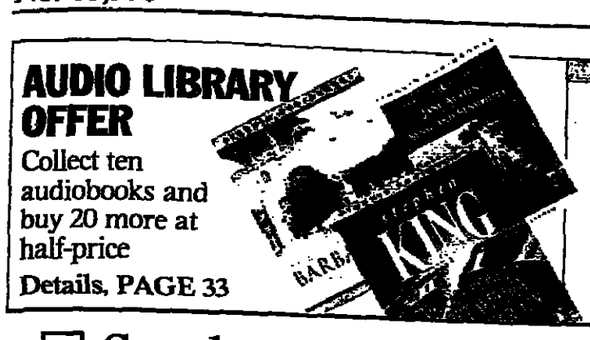
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THE TIMES

30p

No. 65,530 MONDAY MARCH 18 1996



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The final frontier
Shape of life seven miles under the sea
PAGE 14

Into the frying pan
City high-flyers choose a new course for their lives
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13 PAGES OF SPORT

Battered and bruised
Bruno loses his nerve and his world title
PAGES 21,22



☐ Sombre royal visit to bereaved in Dunblane ☐ Millions pay silent tribute to victims

The Queen leads day of mourning

BY ALAN HAMILTON, OLIVER AUGUST AND STEPHEN FARRELL

THE QUEEN conveyed the thoughts of an entire nation yesterday when she visited Dunblane to meet parents and families of the 16 children and their teacher who died in last Wednesday's school massacre.

In a private 15-minute meeting in Dunblane cathedral's Chapter House the Queen, accompanied by the Princess Royal, was visibly moved as she told a gathering of 30 of the bereaved of the grief and profound sympathy felt for them by the entire country.

The Queen told them that she prayed they would find the courage to endure their anguish, and the fortitude to face the future with the love and support of family, friends and community.

Millions of people around the country paid their own respects to the victims at 9.30am as a minute's silence was observed at airports, railway stations, supermarkets and churches.

The Queen and the Princess stopped briefly at the entrance to Dunblane Primary School, where a vast carpet of floral tributes lined the drive. The Queen added her own bouquet with a simple card expressing her deepest sympathy; the Princess placed a posy of snowdrops picked from her garden at Gatcombe Park yesterday.

A hastily-arranged royal visit had been planned for today but it was reorganised when it was realised that it would coincide with the first of the many private funerals that Dunblane must now endure. The royal party flew from London to RAF Turnhouse, Edinburgh, and arrived in Dunblane by car at 3pm on a raw, piercingly cold afternoon under a sky as grey and leaden as the spirits of the shattered community.

Deterred partly by the cold and partly by a growing desire for privacy after four days of media invasion, many of the little city's 7,000 population stayed away, and a crowd of barely 400 greeted the Queen and Princess as they arrived in the main square. Silence fell as the royal party, welcomed by local dignitaries, moved to the cathedral.

They were met by the Reverend Colin McIntosh, the minister of the cathedral, who earlier in the day had conducted a moving Presbytarian service in which he underlined that the need for the present was for comfort, and not to seek reasons or justification for what had happened.

The Queen and the Princess met politicians including Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and George Robertson, the Shadow secretary, who lives in Dunblane. Mostly, however, the visitors met those who had been in the front line of the tragedy: Ron Taylor, the school's headmaster and his staff, local clergy, ambulance crews, police, doctors, social workers and counsellors.

Dr Jim Herbert, one of the first people on the scene of the massacre, told the Queen of the community's appreciation of her visit. "She in turn was very appreciative of what we had done, and obviously felt for us," he said.

The Princess Royal, who is patron of Victim Support Scotland, spoke to local members of the charity who are setting up a centre in Dunblane. Rosemary Docherty told the Princess that the centre was likely to be needed for many months to come.

After spending 20 minutes longer in the cathedral than planned the Queen emerged carrying a single yellow daffodil given to her by one of the bereaved parents. The royal visitors, who had spent 90 minutes in the city, drove off to meet surviving children, parents and medical staff at Stirling Royal Infirmary.

At 9.30am, the time that the massacre started, the BBC and commercial radio stations went off the air for 60 seconds. Television programmes supplemented the silence with pictures from Dunblane.

At Heathrow passengers and staff of all nationalities stood in silence with their heads bowed. Landings and take-offs were suspended and planes on the runway turned off their engines.

"The bustling terminals went quiet as if people froze with horror all over again. You could have heard a pin drop as the pushing and shoving in the queues ceased," a British Airways ground crew co-ordinator said.

Silence also fell at Railtrack's 14 main stations, where trains were delayed while staff gathered on the platforms.

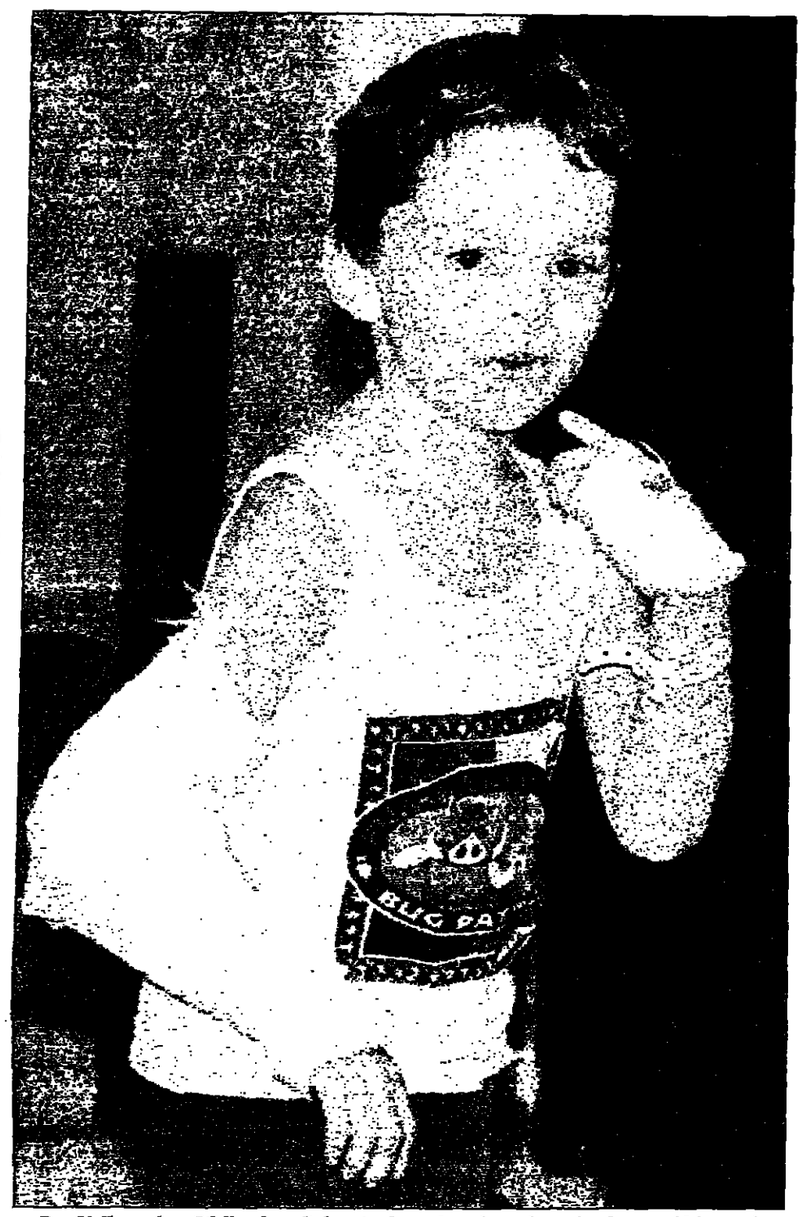
Bob Wilkeds, the manager at Euston Station, said: "All trains leaving the station were stopped for approximately three or four minutes either side of 9.30. Ticket sales were stopped. No-one moved at all on the concourse."

At London Bridge Station a homeless man begging for money joined passengers and staff in their remembrance. Jimmy Herbert, of no fixed address, stood up from his dirty blanket and gave a military salute.

"As a former soldier and now a man with no home I understand grief better than most people," he said. "And although I am not in very good shape at the moment I still want to show my respect and sympathy for those Scottish people. Their lot is a hundred times worse than mine."

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Ben Vallance in a Stirling hospital yesterday, where he rode a tricycle round his ward

Ben's breach of protocol

BEN VALLANCE, one of the five children who was visited by the Queen and the Princess Royal at Stirling Royal Infirmary yesterday, made a dash from his room as soon as his distinguished guests arrived and had to be chased by the Queen's bodyguard.

Ben, who was shot in the elbow during the massacre at Dunblane Primary School, then mounted a tricycle and rode round Ward 17 while the Queen was talking to other patients and their families.

The children were in high spirits over the royal visit, but they also expressed their disappointment when they asked the Queen where her crown and the corgis were. The Queen said she could not bring the crowns on the aeroplane and she hoped that the corgis were being taken for a walk.

Robert Purves, one of the injured proudly displayed his teddy, which nurses had dressed in a blue theatre gown with a cast on its arm, matching the plaster on Robert's shattered elbow.

Seconds before the Queen arrived Amy Hutchison planted two baby teddy bravery award stickers on either cheek, but they were pulled off by her mother. The Queen and the Princess spent 15 minutes on the wards.

Mellor heads campaign for handgun ban

BY JILL SHERMAN AND JOANNA BALE

THE Government faced mounting calls from MPs last night for a total ban on handguns in an attempt to prevent another Dunblane tragedy.

The demands were led by David Mellor, former Home Office minister, who is seeking an early amendment to outlaw the type of weapons used by Thomas Hamilton, the Dunblane mass killer.

The "gun lobby" warned that it would oppose any move for an outright ban. Any decision over handguns, including where they should be kept, would be incorporated in the terms of reference of Lord Cullen's inquiry. This will delay any decision over toughening up gun laws until the summer, effectively postponing any new legislation until next year.

Mr Mellor plans to force a vote by tabling amendments to a Criminal Justice Bill due later this year, or by a private member's bill.

"We can either ban handguns or we impose many more restrictions on their possession. I unashamedly call on Parliament to ban them. It will inconvenience some people, but the rest of us have the right to say, 'so what?'," he said.

Speaking on LWT's *Crosstalk* programme, he attacked what he called "these rubbishy people from the gun lobby" and people acting out "Rambo-esque fantasies in gun clubs".

"We must keep our anger burning bright about this matter because, when the people have forgotten what happened at Dunblane, the lobbyists will be trying to persuade pliable Members of Parliament to do nothing about it."

Mr Mellor was backed by a number of MPs including George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley. "There is a growing tide in favour of banning handguns and automatic weapons in private possession and I would certainly support that," said Mr Foulkes.

However, Michael Colvin, Tory MP for Romsey and Waterside, who is president of the Palace of Westminster Shooting Club, advised against a hasty reaction.

The Westminister Shooting Club has a rifle range in the bowels of the House of Commons, and has recently introduced pistol shooting.

Mr Colvin suggested that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, should consider a review of the way the Firearms Amendment Act was administered and whether handguns should be kept in clubs rather than in people's homes.

The Conservative MP Sir Jerry Wiggin, chairman of the British Shooting Sports Council, a field sports enthusiast, yesterday also warned against a Parliamentary "knee-jerk" reaction to the Dunblane massacre.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, opposed a ban on the grounds that it would prevent Britain from competing in the Olympic games.

☐ The Government is also expected to introduce new laws requiring all new televisions to be fitted with electronic scramblers or V chips, to allow parents to prevent children watching violent or sexually explicit programmes.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, has agreed to the move in principle and has now asked her officials to look at how to overcome some of the practical difficulties.



"Of course he's upset. Frank Bruno got £4 million for losing"

Bruno left without a future in ring

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN IN LAS VEGAS

FRANK BRUNO flew home yesterday to an uncertain future after his third-round defeat by Mike Tyson in the WBC heavyweight championship here. The reverse was so conclusive that it left Bruno with little future in boxing.

He was counted out on the ropes after receiving a barrage of about 13 blows. The referee, Mills Lane, quickly stepped in and called a halt. "He was in real bad trouble," he said. "He could not have gone on."

Bruno suffered a bad gash near his left eye in the first round for which he received hospital treatment. He was to have attended a news conference yesterday with Tyson, but withdrew.

Bruno was betrayed by nerves and the pressure of facing a formidable opponent. He said he needed time to think. "I am disappointed for the fans who were here, and those who stayed up late," he said. "I'm going to chill out with my family and then think about the future."

In boxing terms, Bruno, 34, has nowhere to go, having been beaten in four world title bouts in his 14-year professional career. He is most unlikely to get another chance to fight for the world title.

He made £5 million from Saturday's bout and might return to broadcasting. However, it would be surprising if he did not stay in boxing in some way.

The 5,000 British fans at the fight were generally well behaved, according to Las Vegas police, but there was trouble early yesterday in two 24-hour bars at the MGM Grand garden Hotel, and they had to be closed. There have been no reports of arrests.

Among Bruno's supporters was Lorraine Parkinson, a 33-year-old nurse from Suffolk who went to Wandsworth Primary School with him and "begged, borrowed and stole" to make the trip. As the 15,000 others who had paid up to $2,000 (£1,280) each for tickets filed out of the arena, she stood rooted to the spot, weeping into her Union Jack.

Fight reports, pages 21, 22

America deploys Taiwan fleet

The White House refused to say where the US fleet would be deployed off Taiwan as China issued its sternest warning yet about America's military presence in the area.

In the face of Chinese threats to Taiwan, the US is assembling its largest fleet in Asia since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. The aircraft carrier *Independence* has been stationed off Taiwan's east coast and a second carrier, *Nimitz*, is due in the area this week ..... Page 10

Sri Lanka lifts cricket cup

Sri Lanka became the most unexpected winners of the cricket World Cup in its 21-year history when they beat Australia by seven wickets.

After restricting their opponents to 241 for seven, the Sri Lankans cantered home with 22 balls to spare. Aravinda de Silva became the third player to score a century in a final ..... Page 23

Supreme Albert

Albert, a three-year-old cocker spaniel, was Supreme Champion at Crufts ..... Pages 2, 18

Dambusters' battle order goes for sale

BY JOHN SHAW

THE original battle order for the *Dambusters'* first raid on Germany in May 1943 is to be auctioned soon in London.

The single sheet of paper contains the names of all 19 aircrews who took part in the operation to destroy the Ruhr dams. But its emotional power comes from a line of 11 pencil marks down the left hand side.

Those with a mark beside them indicate crews who returned safely to RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire. Blank spaces indicate the missing. The squadron lost eight aircraft and 53 men on the night of its first operation.

The tally was kept by Harry Humphries, then 28, the squadron adjutant. The raid inspired a best-selling book by Paul Brickhill and a film starring Richard Todd.

The operation, designed to disrupt German heavy industry at a key point in the war, has been described as the most brilliant feat of precision bombing in World War Two.

The night of the raid is still vivid for Mr Humphries, now aged 80, of Weybourne, near Sheringham, Norfolk. His memorabilia is expected to be sold for between £3,000-£4,000 at Bonhams in London, on May 29.

"We heard them coming home on the radio, first Guy Gibson saying 'hello, G for George'," Mr Humphries said yesterday. "That was his aircraft back. Then I began marking off the others. It was a real blow when we found out how many didn't come back. I

Continued on page 2, col 4



Humphries: "We heard them on the radio"

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PLAY TO WIN
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PLUS: Libby Purves and Anatole Kaletsky, Commentator of the Year

WEDNESDAY

INTERFACE
Our weekly guide to new technology
PLUS: Nigella Lawson, Simon Jenkins and Alan Coren

THURSDAY



FILMS
Geoff Brown on the computer-created *Toy Story*
PLUS: Health, Books and Magnus Linklater

FRIDAY



POP
David Toop on secular success and a religious singer
PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY



WHO IS THE MOST POWERFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD?
Final part of our series, in the **Magazine**

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Rifkind hints that vote on single currency may not be binding

Clarke 'will not quit' over Euro poll

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer will not resign if the Cabinet endorses a referendum on a single European currency, despite his opposition to a poll, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

But Mr Rifkind also alarmed Euro-sceptics by hinting that the outcome of such a poll might not be binding on the Government. The Foreign Secretary's confident assertions follows reports ascribed to friends of the Chancellor suggesting that Kenneth Clarke, who strongly opposes a referendum, might resign if one went ahead.

There have also been suggestions that Mr Clarke would campaign in favour of a single currency as soon as the Prime Minister announced that a referendum would go ahead.

Asked on the Jonathan Dimbleby programme on ITV whether the Cabinet could afford to lose Mr Clarke, Mr Rifkind said: "I don't believe there is the slightest possibility of that happening. I believe that there will be a decision reached which the Cabinet will endorse."

Mr Rifkind's comments come after speculation that Mr Clarke has been given some reassurances if a referendum is backed next week. These are believed to include a reaffirmation by the Prime Minister that he would not rule out a single currency in the next Parliament.

Mr Rifkind confirmed that he was drawing up a briefing paper on the practicalities of a referendum which is expected to be put to the Cabinet next Thursday, just before John Major departs for the inter-governmental conference in Turin.

It is widely expected that the Cabinet will back a referendum on a single currency as only a minority of ministers, including Mr Clarke, John Gummer and Sir George Young, are thought to be against. But spelling out the issues of his Cabinet paper, Mr Rifkind said it was not just a question of whether there should be a referendum. "For example, if you did have a referendum, would it be advisory or would it be a binding referendum? What would be the position of ministers that might disagree with the recommendation being made? What would be the actual question that you would ask?"

Both Mr Rifkind and the Prime Minister are believed to support the idea of collective Cabinet responsibility once a decision over a single currency has been reached. This would prevent sceptical Cabinet ministers from campaigning against the idea.

Tory Euro-sceptics demanded urgent clarification of his remarks about whether the poll would be binding. Bill Cash, a leading Euro rebel, said he would raise the issue at Westminster this week. "What is the point of having a referendum unless the Government is going to accept it?"

John Townend, a senior right-wing backbencher, said he was surprised that Mr Rifkind had even mentioned an advisory referendum. "There is no point in having a referendum and not abiding by it."

Any referendum would require an Act of Parliament and Euro-sceptics would be campaigning to ensure that a "binding" clause was enshrined in the legislation.

Sir George Gardiner, a senior Tory, said: "It is very hard to imagine a referendum that would not be binding in its effect. Surely it is inconceivable that Parliament would impose a view different from the majority of the country?" Most MPs believe the Government would not dare to defy the result of a plebiscite on monetary union. However, it might decide to hold a referendum before putting the issue to Parliament, to allow both the Cabinet's decision to be considered and the views of the public.

The normal sequence of events is that the Cabinet's decision would be ratified by Parliament before it was put to a referendum. But it is likely that the option of putting the issue to the people first, in an "advisory referendum", would appeal to Mr Clarke.

Earlier John Redwood urged Mr Rifkind to "win friends and influence people" to his cause at the IGC conference later this month. "His cause must be a Europe of independent nations co-operating with one another. He must offer an alternative vision — a dramatically different vision — from the Franco-German superstate," he said.

Peter Riddell, page 16



Malcolm Rifkind, left, said there was "not the slightest possibility" of Kenneth Clarke resigning

Spring expresses hope for new IRA ceasefire

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DICK SPRING, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, expressed optimism yesterday that the IRA would restore its ceasefire to allow Sinn Fein to join all-party talks in Northern Ireland in June.

Speaking on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*, Mr Spring said: "Peace is what the overwhelming majority of people want, north and south, Catholic and Protestant. The fixed date of June 10 for talks is there and I believe with goodwill we can achieve what we are setting out to do."

However, Mr Spring's comments came amid Unionist fears that London and Dublin were preparing to entice the IRA into another ceasefire by softening their demands for IRA disarmament. Unionists reacted furiously on Friday night when a joint British and Irish consultation paper appeared to indicate that the issue of terrorist weapons would not be allowed to hold up the start of talks.

The paper said that the agenda for the first session of talks would reflect the demands for decommissioning in last month's Anglo-Irish communiqué. That said that political parties would have to accept the principles of non-violence in the Mitchell arms report and they would have to address the report's proposals on decommissioning.

However, Friday's paper then added that at the start of talks, political parties would have to agree only to negotiate a "comprehensive agenda" providing assurance that decommissioning was being addressed. Ulster Unionists saw this as a concession to republicans.

Mr Spring insisted yesterday that decommissioning would be addressed "as a priority item ... We know reassurances have to be given to the Unionist community in relation to arms. Reassurances also have to be given to the nationalist community in relation to an overall political settlement."

He warned republicans that, if the IRA refused to restore its ceasefire, the two governments would still press ahead with all-party talks in June. "If Sinn Fein and the IRA do not reinstate the cessation of violence, the democratic parties ... will have to work without them. But we want Sinn Fein there."

Adams on parade, page 9

STUART HARRISON



Badger, a miniature wire-haired dachshund, bows out of the action on the last day of Cruft's at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. The world's largest dog show had a record entry of 26,000. Results, page 18

Death prompts outcry over CS spray

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE death of a man restrained by police with CS spray led to calls yesterday for trials of the spray to be halted.

A post-mortem examination indicated no link between the gas and the death of Ibrahima Sey, 29, after a disturbance at his home in Forest Gate, east London, early on Saturday. Further tests, however, are to be carried out.

Mr Sey, who was born in Ghana, suffered from hypertensive heart disease and collapsed at Ilford police station after a period of exertion, according to the patholgy report. He died later in hospital.

An inquiry is being led by Frank Wilkinson, Assistant Chief Constable of Hertfordshire police, and the case has also been referred to the Police Complaints Authority.

The CS sprays trials began this month in 18 police forces after requests for extra protection against assault. There were several delays to their start, one after a Metropolitan Police inspector suffered minor facial burns during tests.

Scotland Yard said: "The findings of the post mortem do not link the death to CS incapacitant spray at this stage. Further tests will be undertaken and the evidence will be presented to the coroner."

The tests, thought to involve analysis of the blood, heart and brain, will determine if the spray brought about Mr Sey's collapse or contributed to his death. The tests will also look at whether the strict guidelines for the spray's use were followed.

The post mortem was carried out by three pathologists representing the coroner, the Police Federation and the Metropolitan Police respectively.

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, said: "It would be sensible to suspend use of this spray until an absolute exact cause of death is established and CS gas eliminated." He was concerned that the spray used by British police would be four times stronger than that used by American officers.

Kura Njie, a friend of the Mr Sey, who had a baby daughter, said of the arrest: "I found it strange that you should use CS gas and that more than ten officers were around."

Jebb Johnson, of the National Black Caucus, said the incident would lead to pressure for an independent inquiry into deaths of black people in custody in the London area.

Dambuster sale

Continued from page 1

remember it so well. The atmosphere was very highly charged as the gaps between the planes grew longer. All the big boys were there, Bomber Harris, Barnes Wallis, Ralph Cochrane, AoC Five Group.

"Barnes Wallis was biting his nails down to his elbows. When it was realised we'd lost eight of 19 he got very distressed about it until he was persuaded it was worthwhile."

Mr Humphries said the operation was so secret he did not know the destination of the Lancasters until after the aircraft had taken off and he was told by a Waaf intelligence officer.

"Of course, when the lads came back they were full of it and what they had done. It was fantastic." Mr Humphries was with the unit from its inception in March 1943 until March 1945.

He said: "We all have highs and lows in our lives, but being adjutant of that squadron was quite definitely a high point in mine. Everything seemed a little humdrum afterwards."

The squadron contained some of the cream of wartime bomber command, handpicked men who went on to carry out a string of special duties bombing strategically important canals, marshalling yards, tunnels, rocket sites and the battleship *Tirpitz*.

Each operation called for precision bombing of a very high standard. Mr Humphries said that when Gibson asked him to join the new unit he said, 'Adj, this squadron will either be wiped out or will make history'.

"That was it, I didn't press him further. He was that kind of chap, short in stature, short in fuse, especially with those who didn't do as he wanted. He didn't have any fear as far as I could see. All he wanted to do was fly."

Mr Humphries said the possible short-lived nature of the squadron impelled him to try to keep a record of its activities, including tiny passport-sized photographs of the captains killed on the raid.

They were on a board in the operations room and were taken down immediately after they were killed. Gibson received the Victoria Cross and afterwards a war artist arrived to draw his and the other survivors' portraits. A copy is in the file, with a letter from Gibson to Mr Humphries.

Prosecutors fear slipshod service

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF prosecutors in the Crown Prosecution Service have given a warning that plans to shave £9 million from its budget could jeopardise standards.

They say that one of the jobs that could suffer is the scrutiny of police charges. The implication is that some cases that should be halted might slip through and that others might be unduly delayed in reaching court.

The 13 chief Crown prosecutors, one for each area of the CPS in England and Wales, have privately expressed their concerns to Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions. They are also worried that staff reductions would fall chiefly on the 2,000 lawyers of the CPS.

The £9 million savings are part of 5 per cent cuts across all Whitehall depaprtments and would reduce the CPS budget for 1996-97 from £297 million to £288 million. No CPS staff are prepared to speak out publicly, but Neil Addison, a former senior Crown prosecutor, said that he had seen internal documents outlining the chief prosecutors' concerns.

"They want this to be publicised, but they are concerned for their jobs and so they have spoken to me instead," said Mr Addison, who left the CPS after being suspended over a series of articles about the service.

He said that one suggestion for cuts based the number of prosecutors that each branch needed on the number of cases in courts. This created problems in rural courts, which had fewer cases. "The chief prosecutors of Wales and the South West are particularly concerned at this."

A CPS spokesman said measures were being considered to achieve "greater efficiency, but which allow the CPS to do the same work". He added: "There is a constant flow of information between the chief Crown prosecutors and the DPP and senior management, looking at how best to achieve the necessary quality of service with the available resources."

Signs of the times point in a sponsored direction

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

MOTORISTS seeking directions for Heathrow airport could soon be reading signs bearing a constant reminder of "Britain's favourite airline". The Government is considering allowing the world of corporate sponsorship on to the hard shoulder, with companies paying for road signs.

John Watts, the Roads Minister, believes such a move could take the pressure off the Department of Transport's much-reduced budget while giving companies the chance to advertise in their local areas. British Airways could sponsor signs to Heathrow, or ICI along the northeast coast, site of its huge chemical plants.

Other companies might want to point to towns and villages offering a connection: Mr Kipling sponsoring a sign for Eccles or British Steel backing one for Ironbridge, Ironside or Ironville. Rowntree, maker of the Yorkie, supposedly the lorry driver's favourite, would inevitably be interested in sponsoring all signs for York, which gave its name to the chocolate bar. And could Heinz resist the opportunity to sponsor the sign for Spaghetti Junction?

Mr Watts believes private finance could offset public spending to an even greater degree by allowing companies to put their names on the high-sided insulation boards that protect homes from the noise of nearby motorways and main roads. Silent Night, the bedmaker, could be a prime candidate here.

Road signs cost about £4 million a year to maintain. Another £2.5 million is spent on new signs, each one costing about £1,000. The Transport Department is spending £12 million on updating signs throughout London.

Mr Watts said yesterday that primary legislation would be needed to put corporate logos and names on road signs. However, he could envisage the first in a series of direction signs bearing a sponsorship message, while subsequent signs carried a discreet logo or company name.

The AA was worried that drivers might be distracted by the sponsorship messages when they should be concentrating on where they were going. Mr Watts dismissed the organisation's fears. He said: "This would be a way of applying a private finance initiative for the benefit of motorists. Road signs could be better constructed with the aid of private sponsorship."

The Transport Research Laboratory is reported to be studying the effects of sponsored signs on driver behaviour. Nobody knows yet whether lines of signs for coffee will trigger queues of drivers at service stations gasping for caffeine.

More usefully, perhaps, road rage could be soothed away by signs advertising a comforting cup of cocoa.

Hospital visit lifts spirits of staff and patients as psychological damage begins to heal

Queen witnesses emotional and physical scars of injured children


CRISPIN RODWELL

The Queen outside the cathedral in Dunblane yesterday during her visit to the city. She met privately with the parents of the murdered children

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen and the Princess Royal saw both the remarkable resilience of the children injured in the Dunblane massacre and also some of the traumas that they are now coming to terms with when they visited the paediatric ward at Stirling Royal Infirmary yesterday.

Dr Jack Beattie, consultant paediatrician, said one of the children has been asking his father to draw disturbing and unpleasant scenes. Dr Beattie, who was one of the first to attend the gym last Wednesday morning and to see the bodies of the 16 dead and 12 injured children, said the child's drawings were disturbing.

"They are quite unpleasant in content. They relate to the scenes that I saw in the gym."

But he said he was optimistic that all of the children would make a full recovery both physically and emotionally and said that on the whole they were showing remarkable resilience.

Each of the five children — Robert Purves, Amy Hutchinson, Matthew Birnie, Mark Mullan and Ben Vallance — greeted the Queen in his or her individual way. Amy Hutchinson, the only little girl on the ward, had worn her special silver plastic bangle and was disappointed that she could not see what the Queen was wearing because she kept her coat buttoned up.

Afterwards Amy, 5, who is keen on fashion and jewellery and who suffering from a shattered knee, said the Queen must have found the weather very cold.

Robert Purves, who asked the Queen "Where are your dogs?" was accompanied by his brother Rocco, 16, and his little sister Linda, 4, who was plastered with Robert's baby bear bravery stickers. Robert proudly displayed to the Queen his Teddy which nurses had dressed in a blue theatre gown with a cast on its arm, matching the plaster on Robert's shattered elbow.


A policeman weeps in Dunblane yesterday

Matthew Birnie, who has chest and shoulder injuries, was also excited by the Queen's visit which Dr Beattie said had lifted the spirits of all the staff and patients who met her. But Mike Mullan, who is the most seriously ill with stomach injuries, slept throughout the Royal visit.

Dr Beattie said both the Queen and the Princess Royal had been extremely well briefed before their visit and had details of all the traumas suffered by staff and patients. He said the Queen spoke to the children in the way that a grandmother speaks to her grandchildren. He said she was very much at ease with all the little patients.

The Queen and the Princess Royal also spent time with the two injured teachers, Mary Blake and Eileen Harrild and their families. Angus Smith, a consultant surgeon at the hospital, said both of the adult patients were asked by the Queen about the exact circumstances when they were in the gym. "The Queen wanted to know what their duties in the school were. She was very interested in their jobs. She said that both she and the Princess Royal had been impressed by Dunblane and its community spirit."

Mr Smith said he was not aware that either teacher had yet expressed a desire to attend the funeral of either their colleague, Gwenne Mayor or of any of the children. He said it was possible that Mrs Blake might be discharged this week but said it was likely that Mrs Harrild would be in hospital for some time.

Dr Beattie said that the Queen's visit represented an emotional reunion between the teachers and the children, who until yesterday had been on separate wards. He said the teachers were tearful when they saw the children and showed them lots of affection.

Dr Beattie said he felt the whole visit had been an extremely positive one for the staff, for the parents and for the families and said it represented the start of the emotional healing process. Fran Hislop, the sister on the paediatric ward, said her staff had appreciated the visit and were beginning to come to terms with the awful events of last week. She said it was highly likely that the staff would take up offers from other hospitals to relieve them of their duties so that they could have some rest or attend any future memorial services.

The condition of the three most seriously injured children who are in hospital in Glasgow continued to improve yesterday. Ryan Liddell, Coll Austin and Amie Adam, who are in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Yorkhill in Glasgow are now all off the danger list. Amie, who has bullet wounds to her thigh, suffered a relapse on Friday and returned to intensive care with collapsed lungs. She has moved out of intensive care to a surgical ward.

Coll Austin, who has bullet wounds to his eye and head, was also taken off a ventilator and moved out of intensive care yesterday afternoon. A spokeswoman for the hospital said their conditions were comfortable and stable. Ryan Liddell, who has injuries to his chest and arm, was said to be making good progress.

☐ Families in Dunblane are preparing for a week of mourning as they attend the funerals of the 16 children. The services have been arranged to allow the grieving families to attend as many funerals as possible. Some will be going to up to nine services this week.

Two will be joint ceremonies. The funeral service of Joanna Ross and Emma Crozier will be held this morning at Lecropt Church, Bridge of Allan, and there will be a joint service at Dunblane Cathedral for Melissa Currie and Charlotte Dunn tomorrow.

This afternoon the service for Abigail McLennan will be held at St Blanes, Dunblane, where the Reverend George Cringles, minister of the church is also chaplain of Dunblain Primary School. Shortly after Abigail's service the funeral of Kevin Hassel will be held in the same church.

Tomorrow, will see the funeral of David Kerr in the Church of the Holy Family, Dunblane. Megan Turner, Sophie North and Hannah Scott will have funeral services at Dunblane Cathedral.

John Petrie will be buried at the Church of the Holy Family in Dunblane. Victoria Clydesdale's funeral will be at Lecropt Church. The service for Emily Morton will be at St Blanes and for Mhairi MacBeath at the the cathedral on Wednesday.

The funeral of the children's class teacher, Gwenne Mayor, will be held at Dunblane Cathedral on Thursday where there will also be a service for Brett McKinnon. In the afternoon Ross Irvine's funeral will be at St Columba Church, Midtown, Ayr.

Minister calls for courage 'to dream that our joy will return'

BY ALAN HAMILTON


A crowd listening to the morning service outside Dunblane Cathedral, where all the pews were full

ON ANY other fourth Sunday in Lent, Dunblane Cathedral would have rung to the innocent early spring pleasure of Mothering Sunday. Yesterday its ancient walls gathered in a community reaching deep into its well of Christian faith in search of comfort.

Every seat was filled. Among the cathedral's congregation of 1,000 sat bereaved parents, gaunt in their loss, and Sunday school children as uncomprehending as their elders. The simple liturgy of the Church of Scotland places much store by the Word, and the Word was the overwhelming sorrow of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Spring is late in Dunblane, and the morning air was raw and damp, with stinging flurries of sleet. But at 9.30, an hour before the service began, several hundred worshippers were queuing outside the cathedral door. As the bells chimed the half hour, they stood motionless as the prescribed silence fell over the small city, broken only by the distant cawing of rooks.

Policemen stood to attention. Cameramen stilled their shutters. No one spoke, until the slow tolling of a single bell ended the brief vigil. Standing before a bank of floral tributes and a grand piano covered in teddy bears, a tiny fraction of the tributes that have arrived in the city since Wednesday, the Rev Colin McIntosh, minister of Dunblane Cathedral, told a bowed congregation: "We come here with the things we do believe, and the things we cannot understand. We are hoping, praying and trusting that God will meet us here."

As television cameras broadcast the service live, Mr McIntosh confessed: "Our thoughts today overwhelm us and words are hard to find." He turned to the children in the front pews, acknowledging that they were sad, confused and a little frightened.

It was not wrong, he told them, to cry or to tell others how they felt. But he asked them, above all, to smile in remembrance of the special things about their departed friends, and to hold hands with each other in mutual comfort.

As the children did so Mr McIntosh, in a voice which he struggled to keep steady, read out the names of the 16 dead children and their teacher. As he did so the rest of the congregation reached for a neighbour's hand. In a sermon on the text of Christ's betrayal, Mr McIntosh said he had recently visited the Church of All Nations at the Garden of Gethsemane where a notice deterring guided tours reads "Please, no explanations in this church".

"Today, in *this* church, and in all the churches of the land, there can be no explanation. We cannot answer why this should have happened. God knows that this is not the time or the place for explanation."

The first numbness was beginning to pass, and the reality was beginning to confront the community. Mr McIntosh spoke of "that awful sense we have that with the death of so many children and their teacher, something of our own life has lost its meaning.

"Silence, space and time: these, I think, are our needs at the moment. But not an explanation. Fear, trembling and tears are not an explanation, but they are an expression of faith. Give us the courage to dream that our joy will return."

As the choral Amen died away, the congregation filed out, some to take coffee and consolation in the village hall, but many to their private thoughts. The pain is as yet unassuaged, for the coming week is a week of 17 funerals.

Donations already helping families

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has appealed to the media to "reduce the scale of their presence" in Dunblane to help people to recover from the tragedy. "There appears to be genuine and justifiable concern that the sheer number of journalists from all parts of the media may cause added distress to the grieving families during the week in which the funerals of the murdered children are to be held," he said. "They will need over the coming weeks to bury their children and start to find a route to recovery."
Matthew Parris

DONATIONS from around the world are already being used to meet the immediate financial needs of the families of the bereaved and injured children and teachers in Dunblane.

The Bereaved Families Fund (Dunblane) opened on Friday with a £2,000 donation from the Safeway supermarket group. Thousands of pounds have been pledged since with calls coming from America, Australia, South Africa and Germany.

Tony Banks, director of The Leprosy Mission in Scotland, who is chairing the fund, said that it had already helped one family with the cost of mourning clothes. "We have been inundated with telephone calls pledging hundreds of pounds and some of the affected families have been in touch with us."

Mr Banks said that the fund had organised a rota of volunteers with private cars to transport one family on the 80-mile round trip to visit their child in hospital in Glasgow.

All the families of the dead and injured have been supplied with three to four days of oven-ready meals. They have been told not to worry about telephone, heating or lighting bills.

More than 100 volunteers from Dunblane have offered to help the families, many putting their cars at the fund's disposal. Others have offered to clean, cook and garden for the grieving families. A number of fund-raising activities are being planned and some of the larger Scottish companies have applied for collection tins to organise donations from staff.

Mr Banks said: "We're hoping for at least £100,000. We would like to offer every family a respite holiday in three to four months' time.

"Our main aim is to support the families and we are working in conjunction with local churches and the local authorities."

☐ The Bereaved Families Fund (Dunblane), which is applying for charitable status, can be contacted on 01786 449266. A bank account number 00119656 has been set up by the Royal Bank of Scotland and can be accessed through any branch of the bank.

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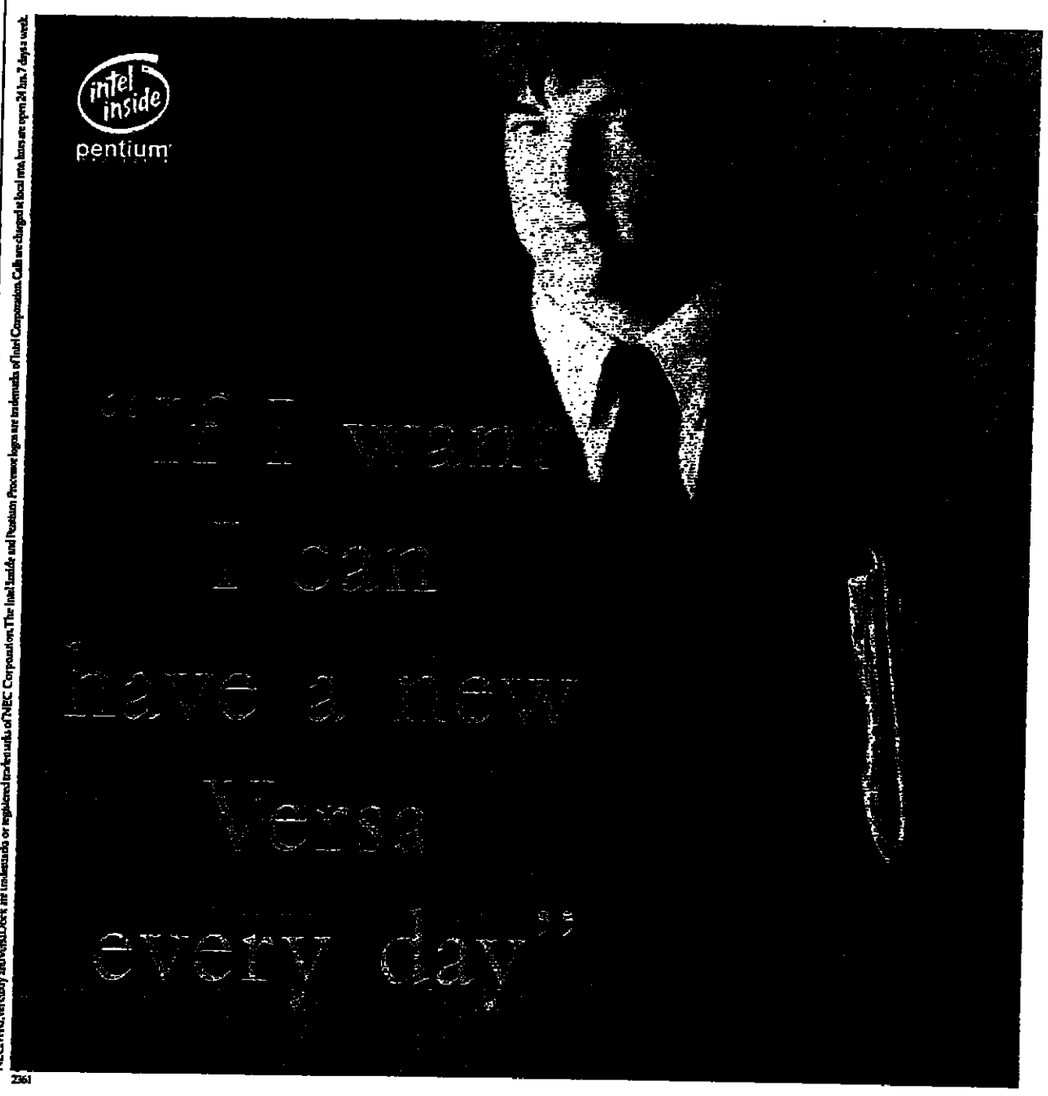


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Rough reception for visitor from Brussels as Cornish trawlermen accuse her of dodging the issue

Port in a storm as fish commissioner tries to make peace

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

CORNISH trawlermen gave the European Fisheries Commissioner, Emma Bonino, the rough edge of their tongues yesterday when she visited Newlyn during a tour of British fishing ports.

Bombarded with questions at a meeting in the Newlyn fish market, Signora Bonino conceded that the European Union's common fisheries policy (CFP) needed "important changes". Struggling to get her point across in broken English, she also offered to provide legal advice on how Britain could reduce the impact of "quota hoppers" — foreign-owned vessels which register in Britain to qualify for a share of the fish catch allocated to the British fleet.

Describing herself as "a friend of the UK", Signora Bonino said: "There is a wide spectrum of things which can be done and there is the possibility of improving the CFP. The problem is how, within the EU framework."

One skipper, Mick Mahon, drew cheers as he sarcastically thanked Signora Bonino for uniting the British fishing industry and said the only solution was for the Government to withdraw from the CFP and to reimpose national control over British waters.

Another trawlerman, Mick Faulkner, who was involved in clashes with Spanish tuna boats two years ago, accused Signora Bonino of "dodging the issue" and told her that she "should not have bothered coming". Mr Faulkner said after the meeting: "She kept talking about the free market and described fish as a common resource but that misses the point. The French and Spanish want to fish in Irish and British waters because 85 per cent of the fish are here. Once we have caught what we need, then we can talk about swapping what is left for what we want to catch in other countries' waters."

Signora Bonino gave as good as she got. Far from being put out of business, she declared, the British fishing fleet had expanded from 116,000 gross registered tonnes in 1986 to 239,000 tonnes last year. Britain had forfeited £12 million in EU grants to modernise its fishing vessels because it had failed to meet targets for reducing the size of its fleet.

The commissioner's reception might have been much rougher. Most of the Newlyn fleet was at sea taking advantage of neap tides and only about 20 trawlermen turned out to hear her.

PHIL MONKTON



Emma Bonino, the Fisheries Commissioner, in Newlyn, Cornwall, yesterday. Fishermen told her she should not have bothered coming

Agent for Spanish boats denies 'pirate' tag

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE Spanish-born director of a fishing company in Wales has every chance of winning hundreds of thousands of pounds, possibly millions, in damages from the Government. It is a prospect that infuriates British trawlermen who see John Couceiro as little more than a pirate plundering national fish stocks.

But for Mr Couceiro and his brother Joseph, a co-director of the company, the recent decision by the European Court of Justice upholding their right to compensation was a vindication of membership of the EU.

"We are supposed to be living and working in a single market," Mr Couceiro said. "All we are asserting is our right to practise our business wherever we want in the European Union and to sell our fish at whatever ports offer the best prices." The Couceiros' parents came to Britain in the 1950s. John, the elder brother, was five and Joseph was born here. Both have spent their lives here and hold British nationality.

In the 1980s the family set up the Clearmaine company in Milford Haven to act as managing agents for Spanish-owned boats which had registered in Britain so as to qualify for a share of Britain's fish quota.

In 1989 the Government introduced the Merchant Shipping Act, which required that 75 per cent of the shareholders of companies owning British-registered fishing vessels should be British nationals. "It was a crippling blow", Mr Couceiro said. Two years later, the European Court ruled that the nationality clause of the Act was illegal, and later this year the brothers will take their fight for damages for lost business to the High Court.

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Half of secret MoD couriers lose their jobs

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN ELITE group of couriers who carry top secret documents and coding equipment around the world for the Ministry of Defence has been cut by half to meet Treasury budget cuts.

Staff of the Defence Courier Service, which dates from the time of Henry VIII, has been cut from 140 to 71. Only 34 are couriers, the rest are sorters and clerical staff. Couriers, all former warrant officers from the Army, Royal Navy and RAF, will also be obliged to negotiate cut-price deals with airlines to save money, if they cannot use RAF flights.

The former senior NCOs are employed by the Defence Postal and Courier Services Agency, which is having to prune its annual £15.9 million budget by £20 million over the next 10 years. This followed the MoD's Frontline First review, launched two years ago after the Treasury demanded savings of £750 million in defence spending.

Brigadier Tweedie Brown, chief executive of the agency which was formed in 1992, said: "We may have to deliver classified equipment to a Royal Navy ship that's calling in Rio de Janeiro and we must get it there in the fastest and cheapest way we can."

The MoD couriers, who work closely with the Foreign Office's Queen's Messengers, provide a secure service for carrying material classified secret and above outside Great Britain and for top secret and special category material within the United Kingdom.

Specially vetted couriers carry the material throughout their journey. They go daily to Northern Ireland and are constantly on the move because the amount of classified material that needs to be delivered around the world is increasing.

Brigadier Brown said: "We receive, dispatch and distribute 50,000 items of the nation's secrets worldwide every month. You can tell if there's a crisis in the world which has defence implications because there's a rapid increase in courier traffic."



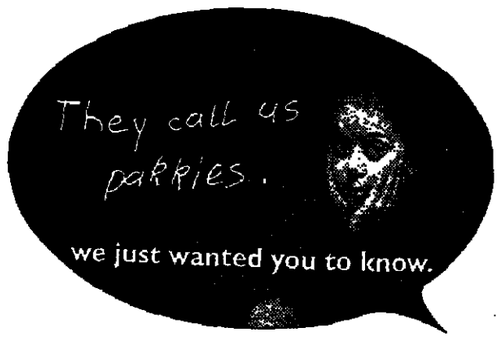
Defence courier service dates back to Henry VIII

Runners who faced a packet of trouble

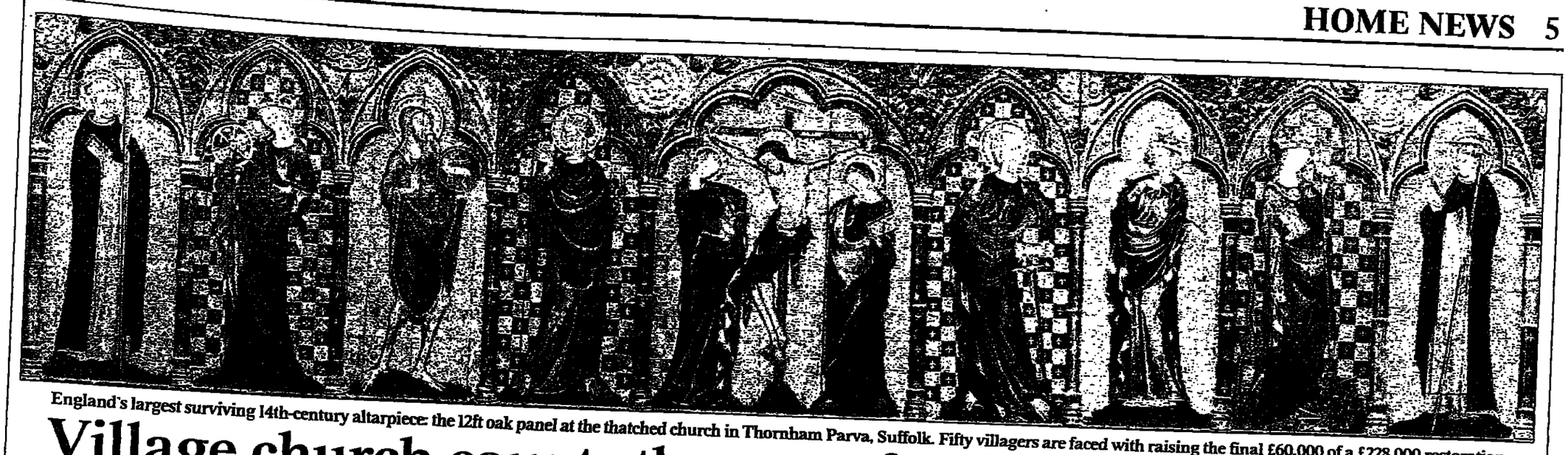
THERE is a long tradition of the special courier, or king's messenger, being dispatched with secret material around the world. A history published in the 1920s described some of the hazards.

In 1861, during the American Civil War, a messenger was sent to deliver a secret package to British officials in Washington. The British observed neutrality in the war but they were not popular in the North because of suspicions that they tacitly supported the South. He faced "inveterate hatred" and was called a "darned Victorian spy".

In the Franco-Prussian war in 1870, a British courier had to be rescued by the French gendarmerie from a screaming mob when he was spotted making notes while sitting in a café in Le Mans. They thought he was a Prussian spy, but all he was doing was jotting down his expenses.



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England's largest surviving 14th-century altarpiece: the 12ft oak panel at the thatched church in Thornham Parva, Suffolk. Fifty villagers are faced with raising the final £60,000 of a £228,000 restoration

Village church counts the cost of saving medieval saints

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A NORMAN church in Suffolk will have to sell its prized possession, the largest surviving 14th-century English altarpiece, unless it can raise £60,000 for urgent conservation.

Paint is flaking from the 12ft-long depiction of the Crucifixion and eight saints. One of the few English panel paintings to have survived six centuries, the value of a work of such size, date and rarity is virtually impossible to estimate. The total cost of restoration is £228,000, to which the National Heritage Memorial Fund and English Heritage have committed £168,000.

The flint church, which has a Saxon window, thatched roof and tower and 14th-century wall-paintings, is set in the tiny, remote village of Thornham Parva. The scope for a local appeal is limited: the population is no more than 50.

The oak altarpiece, which dates from the 1330s, has been sent to a leading restoration centre, the Hamilton Kerr Institute in Cambridge, part of the Fitzwilliam Museum. Ian McClure, the institute's director, said: "It is manifestly deterioriating." The treatment required is so extensive and the operation so delicate that it will take two years to complete.

Martin Kay, a church warden, said: "We are determined, if we can, to preserve this national treasure, which people visit from all over the world." Part of the funds will be used to improve lighting and security in the church, a requirement of the two heritage bodies. Mr Kay said that if all efforts to raise the £60,000 failed, the church would sell the altarpiece or lend it to a museum.

The panel was found in a stable on a Suffolk estate in the 1920s and given to the church. A label indicated that it was bought in a 1778 farm sale at Stradbroke, Suffolk. The inclusion of the saints Dominic and Peter Martyr suggest a Dominican origin, probably the 1335 priory at Thetford, Norfolk, whose property passed after the Dissolution to a family connected with Stradbroke.

Mr McClure said the altarpiece had undergone a series of ad hoc restorations dating from the 18th century. In the 1930s a conservator had removed some sections of 18th-century overpaint and had painted over sections he could not restore properly. Another restorer had badly regilded it in the 1960s. The original paint was flaking and if left any longer would be impossible to separate from the overpaint.

The church's dampness and humidity were added problems but the wall-paintings would suffer if the humidity were reduced. The solution was "a discreet case so that it still looks like altarpiece and not an object in a case".

Union to bar student extremists from office

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND JENNIE BRISTOW

STUDENTS with extreme political or religious views will be barred from standing for full-time representative posts under a code of practice being negotiated between their union and vice-chancellors.

University officials have become increasingly concerned about militant Islamic groups in particular. Confrontations took place on a number of campuses as the fundamentalist group Hizb ut-Tahrir tried to recruit new members at the start of the academic year. London Guildhall University closed all its buildings and sent staff home for the day on police advice after a demonstration by Hizb ut-Tahrir.

The code, likely to be approved in principle at the National Union of Students' annual conference next week, would stop short of banning such groups from campuses. But members would be barred from elections for sabbatical office.

Two cases involving student union officers in the capital have added to fears of a resurgence in student militancy. Nick de Marco, union president at Kingsway College, was expelled for throwing paint over Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, and six union members at South Bank University were suspended over allegations of financial impropriety and intimidation of other students.

NUS officers and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals have reached agreement on the need to act against a range of fringe organisations. A spokesman said: "The code would not target any one group but extremism more generally."

Motions to be debated at the NUS conference in Blackpool say the union should meet the vice-chancellors to "draft and implement a national code of practice as a guide to dealing with extremist groups". The moves will be strongly opposed by leftwingers, anxious at the catch-all nature of a ban, but are unlikely to be defeated.

Some delegates to the conference will argue that the code could compromise democracy and free speech. Kate Simmons, who will lead the delegation from Goldsmiths College, southeast London, said: "All this stuff about extremism is rubbish. On the one hand, NUS talks about student apathy but then it makes out that students are all running around promoting extreme political views. They can't have it both ways."

However, leaders of the NUS believe that the low turnout in many student elections, particularly in further education colleges, makes the code necessary. Political extremists need only a small number of votes to take over local unions.

Over the past three years, the union has tried to clamp down on extremist groups. In 1994, Hizb ut-Tahrir was censured for its campus activities, alleged to be hostile to Jews and homosexuals, and last year's conference called for the prosecution of members of the group. Last December the Islamic Society at University College London was disaffiliated from the union amid controversy over its alleged links with Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Film centre plans £60m showcase

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Film Institute is planning to move the National Film Theatre from its cramped home on the South Bank in London to the West End, with the historic Rialto cinema the most favoured site.

The plans are part of a £60 million scheme to create a showcase for cinema that will do justice to "the primary art form of the 20th century".

Negotiations are under way for the move to the Rialto, an historic Edwardian building in Piccadilly that has been empty for 13 years. Lord Attenborough and Sir David Puttnam were among campaigners who successfully opposed proposals for a "Fashion Café" on the site submitted by four supermodels. The BFI is also considering two cinemas around Shaftesbury Avenue.

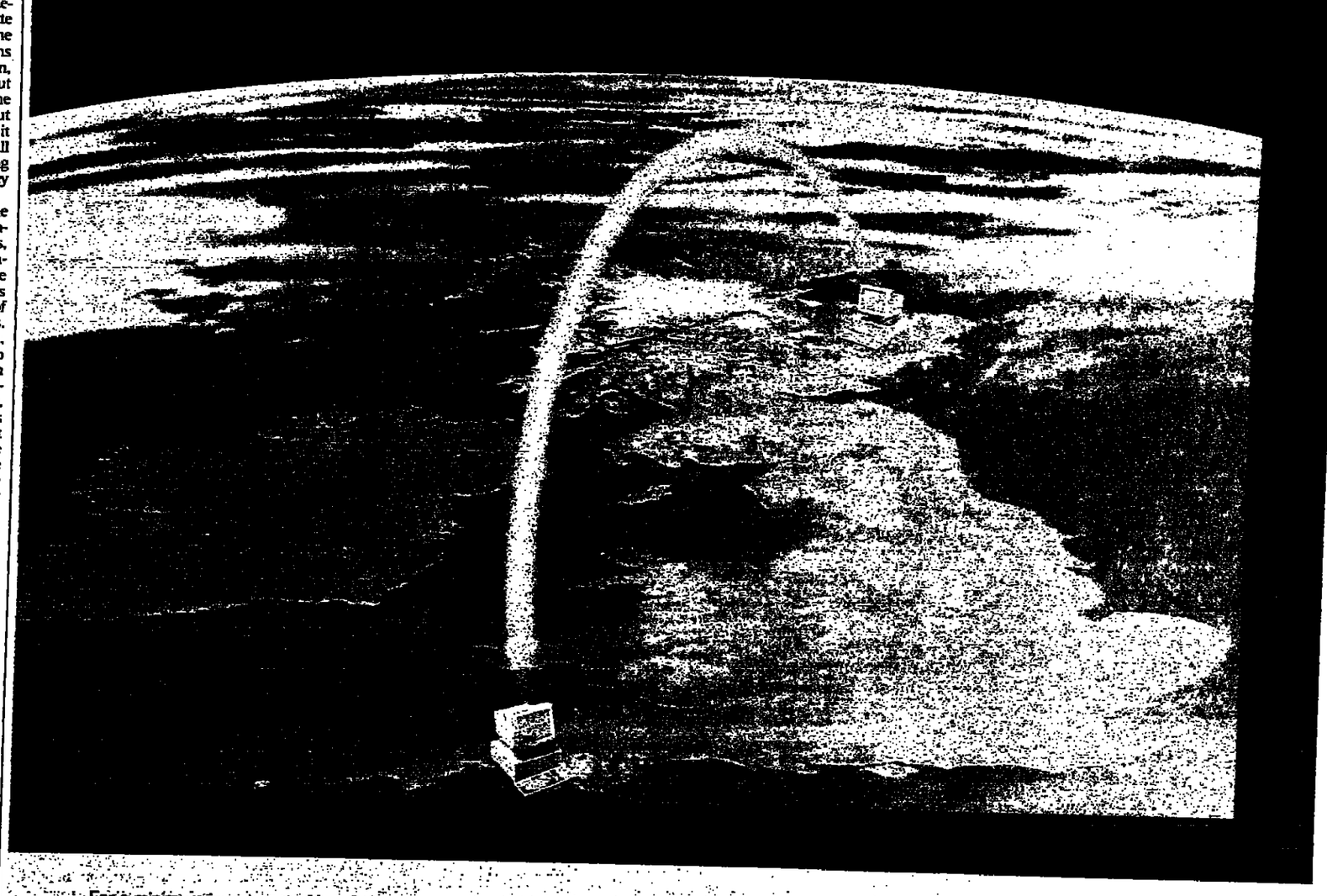
The move is among initiatives to be announced on Wednesday by the institute that will include expanding the Museum of the Moving Image into the NFT's vacated South Bank building. There is also a scheme to transform the nearby "cardboard city" within Waterloo's bullring into an 800-seat cinema, with an Imax screen, ten times larger than the norm. A glass- and steel-domed rotunda will be built.

A BFI spokesman said the homeless using the area would not be forgotten. "We are working with social services at Lambeth council to see how we can help the people who are there. That would involve some cash."

In May, the BFI will apply to the Arts Council for a £12 million lottery grant, towards the £18 million cost of the Imax cinema. For Momi's expansion, the institute will apply to the National Heritage Memorial Fund for £10 million. It is also making new prints of 20 classic films to tour regional film theatres.

Adrian Wootton, head of the BFI, said film was underfunded. "While opera, theatre, even the novel, continue to receive many more chunks of state funding, film is the poor relation."

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Chef school swamped by eager amateurs disillusioned with their careers in the City

High-flyers leap from the fire into the frying pan

BY ROBIN YOUNG

TIRED and frustrated by the pressures of a humdrum existence, an army of bankers, City traders, journalists and salesmen are seeking celebrity status and self-fulfilment in the heat and bustle of the restaurant kitchen.

In ever increasing numbers, they exchange high salaries and stress for a lower wage and the lash of a head chef's tongue when they enrol on courses designed for the aspiring amateur.

Britain's restaurants are short of skilled chefs but high achievers, underwhelmed by their first career, are now eager to fill the gap. Salaries for senior chefs have risen by up to 25 per cent but money is seldom the reason for the newcomers' ambitions to slave over a hot stove.

John Roberts, director of the Butler's Wharf Chef School in southeast London, said: "This week we have had applications from a BBC journalist, a newspaper reporter, a banker, a commodities dealer and a computer salesman. I have just had a call from a businessman in Hull who wants to take our advanced chefs' programme, which would cost him £5,000 for six months' training. People see being a chef as a satisfying and fulfilling job."

The Chef School, supported by catering trade organisations, the London Docklands Development Corporation and the London Borough of Southwark, was set up specifically to tackle the shortage of chefs and front of house staff for Britain's fast growing number of restaurants.

Unlike conventional catering colleges that offer fixed courses and supply many of the catering staff who work in schools, hospitals, hotels and contract catering, the school aims to suit programmes to individual requirements. It welcomes applications from mature students with no previous experience in catering.

Its students operate a restaurant, The Apprentice, under the supervision of Andy Sargent, the school's senior chef, who formerly cooked for King Husain and Queen Noor of Jordan. The Apprentice, serving set lunches at £8.50 and *à la carte* dinners, is full every lunchtime and booked a week ahead for dinner, despite competing with the four restaurants of Sir Terence Conran's Gastrodrome complex close by.

The school has 180 students and 200 more are on a waiting list. Mr Roberts said: "People are coming to us from all walks of life. There is a feeling that being a chef has glamour and status."

Tracey Locke, 31, formerly employed by Warburgs in the City, Holland, Germany and Japan, was so keen to enlist as a trainee chef that she worked voluntarily for the school for ten weeks before winning her place on the advanced course.

"I did not want to work in securities any more and I had been doing a lot of entertaining at home," she said. "When I heard about this course it seemed ideal because I enjoy cooking. I find my administrative experience useful, because chefs have to keep accounts, place orders, rotate stock and operate a computer, all of which come easily to me."

Miss Locke has taken part in two cookery competitions, winning a bronze medal in one, and hopes that when she completes her course she will be able to get a job at Le Pont de la Tour, the Conran restaurant immediately opposite the school.

Susan Casey, 36, worked for Prudential Securities on the futures market before becoming a trainee chef. Sporting two burns on her forearms and three blue plasters on fingers cut by sharp skate bones, she said: "I wanted a change of scene after 17 years. I had been a passionate hobby cook and I wanted to see if I could do something professionally. Ultimately I would like to have a restaurant of my own."

Mr Roberts said: "About 30 per cent of our trainee chefs come from outside the industry. What we look for is not experience but commitment, dedication and enthusiasm."

Leading article, page 17

MICHAEL POWELL



Susan Casey, left, and Tracey Locke, who gave up jobs in the City to train at Butler's Wharf Chef School

Shoppers shun American-style retail hypermarkets

BY OLIVER AUGUST

AMERICAN-style hypermarkets that were expected to revolutionise shopping in this country are being shunned by consumers.

Two of the three "shopping clubs" set up to encourage people to copy American bulk-buying habits have gone into liquidation and the third is surviving by paring profit margins to the minimum.

British supermarket chains believe they have beaten off the American interlopers.

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said: "We have not felt an impact from these shops. Our customers know they get a first-rate service when they come to us, while the warehouse stores are not renowned for the customer service they provide."

Four hangar-like superstores where staff move about on roller-skates have closed down less than three years after starting up despite offering savings of up to 50 per cent on everything from butter to cigarettes.

The members-only Amdis store in Basingstoke has just been put into liquidation with debts of £1 million after failing to sign up enough bargain-hunters. Shareholders lost their £500,000 investment and 27 employees were made redundant. Unsold stocks, including thousands of rolls of toilet paper, are piled up in the store.

Last year all three warehouses of Cargo Club were closed. The British cash-and-carry retailer had been tempted into the market by the profitability of conventional out-of-town stores but lost its nerve after disappointing first-year results. The sites of the stores in Croydon, Bristol and the West Midlands were sold to Sainsbury's. A spokesman for Nurdin & Peacock, Cargo Club's parent company, said: "We didn't do as well as we expected to so we pulled out of the market."

The only warehouse chain surviving is Costco, which has five stores. As an American company it has more experience of a market in which profit margins are wafer-thin. By selling in bulk the warehouse shops are able to undercut conventional supermarkets. Pet food is sold by the crate and ketchup by the gallon, leading members to organise communal shopping trips and share their purchases with friends or neighbours.

In Britain there are 100,000 shopping club members who pay between £25 and £35 to join while one in ten Americans is a member of at least one club.



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One man and his dog and a thousand tapeworms

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

FARMERS are unlikely to use the term working dog to describe the dogs at Crufts this week. The dogs they regard as "working" are those on *One Man and His Dog*.

The farm, the shepherd and his dog are a truly efficient working unit but not a unit without hazard. Worms, and subsequently hydatid disease, are a risk. The association between man and dog is so close that the tapeworms, echinococcus granulosus, which uses the dogs as a definitive host, thereafter uses sheep, or man, as an intermediate host in its lifecycle.

Dogs become infested with tapeworm when they eat sheep's offal. Usually it is the sheep's liver that is infected but it is often the lungs and can be almost any other organ that carries the cysts that form part of the lifecycle of a dog tapeworm.

After the dog has eaten the cyst-infected meat, the worm grows in its intestines and as each worm sheds five to eight hundred eggs every fortnight, passed with the dog's faeces, pasture soon becomes infected and the contaminated grass readily grazed.

The dog owner who becomes the intermediate host does so because he has not washed his hands after touching or grooming the dog and before eating.

It is traditionally in Wales that dogs and their handlers have been most seriously affected by tapeworms — about 150 cases are admitted to hospital each year. The cystic stage in humans is known as hydadidosis and the cysts as hydadid cysts. Many cysts remain symptomless and are well walled off by surrounding tissues but others grow to a great size — one well recorded cyst contained over 50 litres, enough to fill 60 wine bottles.

The cysts can become infected or rupture, complications that can be fatal. In 1 per cent of cases cysts form in the brain and cause epilepsy.

The Public Health Laboratory Service in Wales has recently reviewed the success of a programme started in South Powys designed to control, and it is hoped, eradicate the spread of the tapeworm.

Their recent report in the *BMJ* shows that regular dosing of the farm dogs with praziquantel, marketed as Droncit, eliminates infestation in dogs and reduces its prevalence in sheep. In 1975 a quarter of farm dogs in Powys were infected. When the dosing regime started in Llangenny one dog passed 1,000 worms.

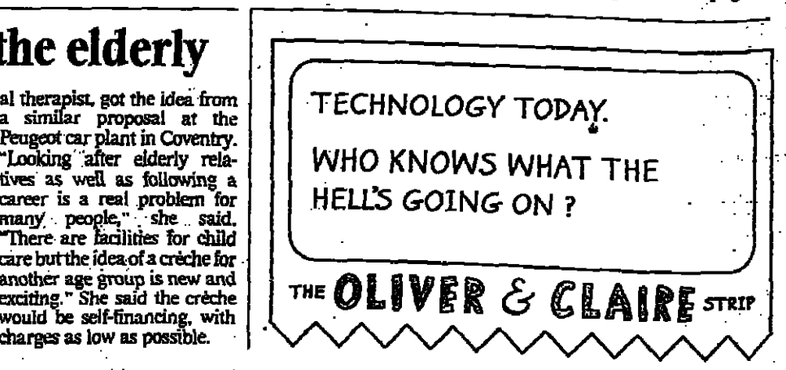
Dogs from Crufts as well as from Llangenny need deworming and their owners are taking a chance, albeit a small one, every time they fail to wash their hands before eating, kiss their dogs or allow them to sleep on their pillow — the dog's bottom may rest where their lips will lie.

Crèche for the elderly

TWO hospitals in Oxford are introducing a crèche for the elderly so that staff who have to look after aged relatives can leave them there during working hours.

The crèche, for staff at the John Radcliffe and Churchill hospitals, was the brainchild of the Churchill's occupational therapy unit, where the service will be based.

Lyn Mason, an occupational therapist, got the idea from a similar proposal at the Peugeot car plant in Coventry. "Looking after elderly relatives as well as following a career is a real problem for many people," she said. "There are facilities for child care but the idea of a crèche for another age group is new and exciting." She said the crèche would be self-financing, with charges as low as possible.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Water company broke own rules

Yorkshire Water failed to follow its own emergency guidelines intended to avert a crisis such as last year's drought, an inquiry in Leeds will be told today. A report by the National Rivers Authority accuses the company of breaching its own rules by allowing reservoirs to drop below set minimum levels, acting slowly to cut demand and failing to reduce massive leakage from its pipes.

The investigation, which has no legal status, was commissioned by Yorkshire Water after a public and political outcry over its handling of the drought.

Air defence test

The nation's air defences will be tested to the limit this week, starting today, as jets from the United States, France, Holland, Germany, Denmark and Belgium simulate attacks. Exercise Brilliant Foil, is designed to test the operational capabilities of British air defence forces.

Suicide notes

A woman who murdered her two sons then committed suicide left seven letters for relatives, police said yesterday. Isabelle Williams, 41, stabbed Rhodri, 14, and Steffan, 11, with a carving knife before killing herself at their home in Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, on Friday.

West appeal

Rosemary West, the serial killer, today launches an attempt to quash her ten life sentences. West, 42, is seeking leave to appeal against her convictions last November. Leo Goatley, her solicitor, said West had decided not to appear before three Appeal Court judges.

Pioneers' place

Work has started on a garden of memories at Brooklands, Surrey, dedicated to the pioneers of aviation and motor racing. Plaques in memory of great names such as Sir Malcolm Campbell, John Cobb and A. V. Roe are expected to be placed in the garden.

Driver's fare deal

Anthony Shackel, a British businessman, had his holdall containing £25,000 returned intact by a taxi driver after he left it in a cab at Manila airport in the Philippines. Another driver who returned a similar amount last month received a house and a presidential citation.

Dial-a-bore

An author who has compiled "the most boring book in the world" confidently expects to become a best-seller. *The Good Code Book* by John Young is claimed to be the first to list every telephone dialling code in the world, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

Anglers drowned

Two anglers were found dead after they failed to return from a night fishing trip off Llanddwyn Island, Gwynedd. A search was organised after one body was found on the shore by a coastguard patrol in the Menai Straits. The other body was found near by.

Disabled left out

Large companies are more likely to employ people with disabilities although only 40 per cent of 1,250 employers surveyed hired disabled workers. Many firms claimed that they received no job applications from disabled people, according to the Institute for Employment Studies.

57 share Lottery

Saturday's National Lottery jackpot of £8.3 million was shared by 57 people, the second highest number since the game began. They receive £145,859 each. Only 55 players chose five correct numbers plus the bonus ball, winning £46,511 each.

Winning numbers, page 20

هكذا من الاصل

Hyakutake will be visible to the naked eye this week as it passes 10 million miles from Earth

New comet promises to brighten the night sky

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE brightest comet for 20 years should be visible to the naked eye before the end of the week, astronomers are predicting. Comet Hyakutake, discovered in January by the Japanese amateur astronomer Yuji Hyakutake, can already been seen with binoculars, but rises late at night.

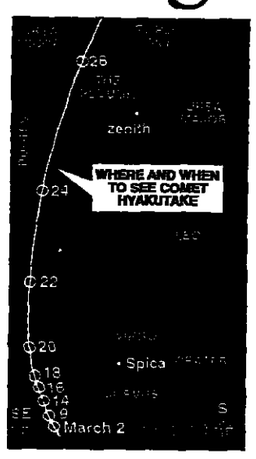
Dr Mark Bailey of Armagh Planetarium says that by Friday it should be visible all night and will lie conveniently close to star groupings such as the Plough.

Hyakutake will be about the size of the full Moon, but much dimmer and more diffuse, with a point of brightness in the centre. To see it properly will require a clear night and a site well away from bright lights. Allow at least ten minutes for the eyes to become accustomed to the dark. Ordinary binoculars can help to identify the comet, particularly its tail, which may otherwise be too dim to see.

Hyakutake is very similar to Halley's Comet in size and brightness but will come much closer to the Earth. Its closest approach, on March 25, will bring it to within about 10 million miles. According to Dr Brian Marsden, director of the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams in Cambridge, Massachusetts, it will be the most active comet to pass this close to Earth since 1556.

Predicting just how bright it will be is tricky, however. Because of its very closeness, its brightness will be spread over a greater angle, diluting the visual impact. Astronomers have been caught out before by predicting that a comet will be a brilliant sight, only to be proved wrong, so most are adopting a cautious approach.

One who is not is Dr Charles Morris of California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, who calls Hyakutake "potentially the first great comet we have seen since 1976, when Comet West graced our skies". A truly great comet, he says, "hangs like a ghost in the sky, which is why the ancients were so terrified of them".



The comet was discovered at the end of January with the use of powerful binoculars and will be gone by May as it heads back into the deep reaches of space. John Mason of the British Astronomical Association has a hunch that the best time to see it may be in the evening sky in the middle of April. Once it has gone it will not be back for several thousand years.

This time next year, however, promises another chance to see a great comet, when Hale-Bopp makes its closest approach to the Sun on April 1. Astronomers are desperately hoping this comet does not make a fool of them, as early predictions suggest it could be very bright indeed.

Hale-Bopp was first seen last summer, when still well outside the orbit of Jupiter. If it continues to brighten as it approaches the Sun, and does not fade out as did comet Kohoutek in 1974, Hale-Bopp should be a winner.

"I figure that Hale-Bopp is a good bet to knock our socks off next year," the comet expert Dr Harold Weaver says in *Nature* magazine.

JOHNNY HORNE



Hyakutake sports a faint tail in this photograph, taken with a five-minute exposure with an astronomical camera

Ashdown tells party to prepare for autumn poll

By Alice Thomson

PADDY ASHDOWN yesterday put his party on a war footing for a probable general election this autumn. The Liberal Democrat leader was joined at his party's spring conference in Nottingham by Emma Nicholson, the recent defector from the Tory party, who fiercely attacked her old colleagues and said that it was vital for democracy that they were defeated.

Miss Nicholson, MP for Torridge and West Devon, said that the Conservative party was irrevocably split over Europe and "many of the remaining Tories will soon walk out in despair".

For the first time in two years, Mr Ashdown moved to reassert differences between his party and the Labour Party. Last year he dropped the policy of Liberal Democrat "equidistance" between the Conservatives and Labour. Yesterday he made clear that Labour were part of the enemy camp despite signals from Tony Blair this weekend that new Labour might support changes to Britain's electoral system.

But Mr Ashdown said new Labour believed in "state-sponsored morality" and authoritarianism. He accused Mr Blair and his spin doctors of "thought police centralism" and trying to enforce a nanny state.

New Labour, Mr Ashdown claimed, was trying to reshape Britain in the image of Singapore. Mr Blair, he warned the conference, would soon be fining people for neglecting to pull the lavatory chain. "They will end up with policies which punish the sinner but ignore the sin," he said.

Outlining his manifesto for the next election, Mr Ashdown said the difference between Labour and the Liberal Democrats on policy was one between fudge and clarity. He said his party emphasised the "self-reliance of individuals" in strong communities. He made clear there would be no cosy pre-election pact with Mr Blair.

Earlier, Mr Ashdown announced a "gay charter" of homosexual rights. He said that the major who had trained him for the Royal Marines and one of the men with him in the Special Boat Squadron had been homosexual, and that they were exemplary soldiers.

Asked whether the charter would be a vote-losing policy, he said: "If you really believe that political leadership is about ducking these issues as Labour obviously does, in order to pander to people's prejudices, well, fine, go ahead and vote Labour."

He added: "But if you want a Britain based on fairness and you believe the discrimination in all forms is a foul abomination, the only thing to do is to vote Liberal Democrat."

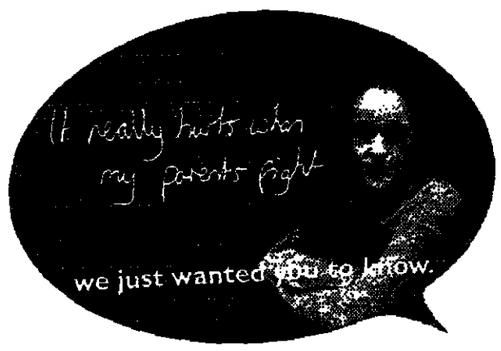
Mr Ashdown made clear that closer ties with Europe would be a cornerstone of the manifesto. Miss Nicholson argued for a federal Europe when she addressed the conference.

She called for "a federation grounded in subsidiarity", and received a standing ovation. She said: "With citizen participation, Europe can embrace *la culture de la paix* for good."

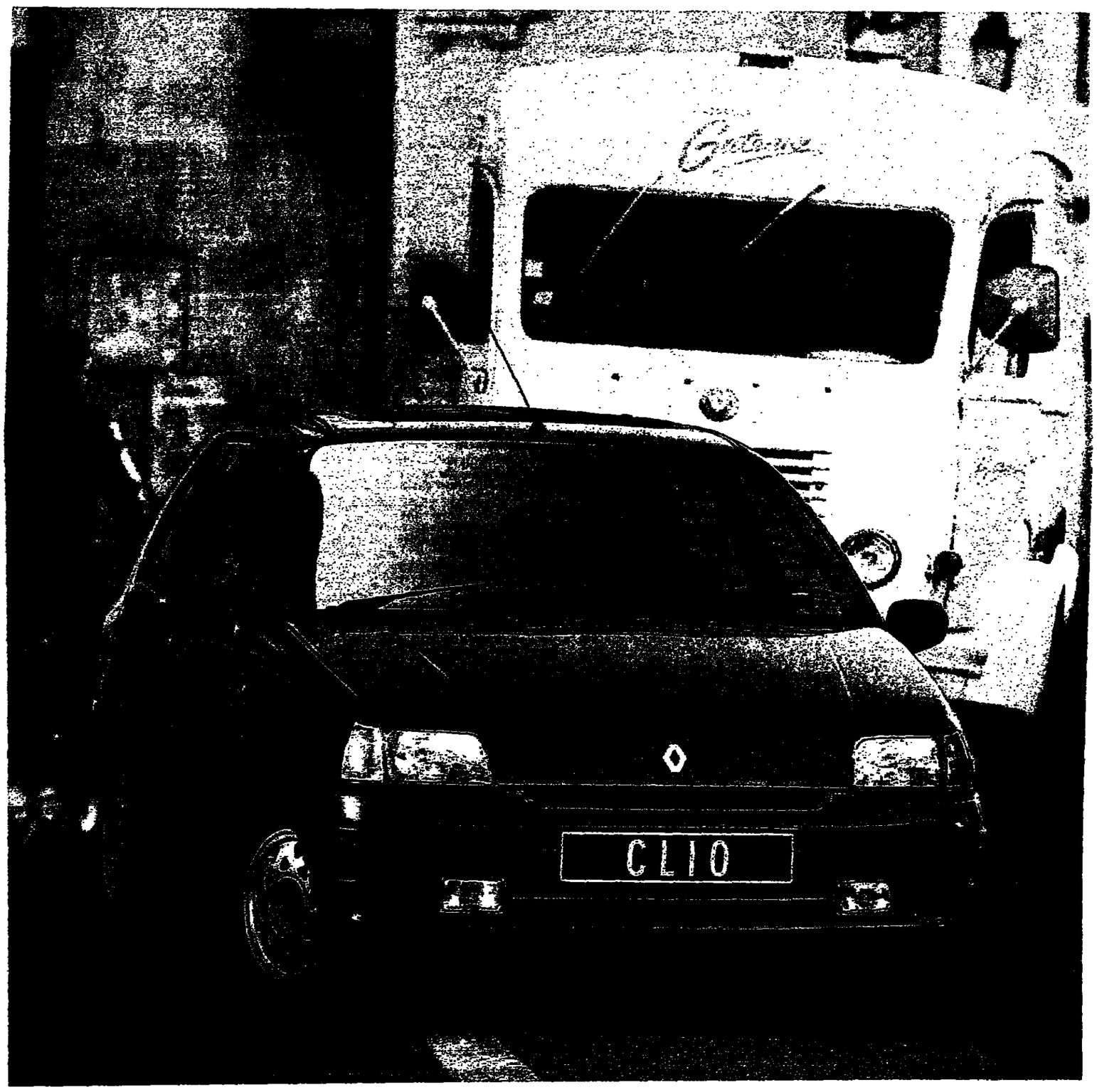
The party made a U-turn on education after a conference battle, dropping its long-held belief in free education for students. It is now committed to a student-loan scheme paid back through National Insurance.



Nicholson addressing the conference yesterday



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Time for Rifkind to take a closer look at options for a flexible Europe

THIS WEEK IN EUROPE

When Malcolm Rifkind rises to his feet in the House of Commons debate on the Europe White Paper on Thursday, attention will be focused on whether or not the Foreign Secretary tilts towards sceptics or pro-Europeans, his body language on a single currency referendum and other such Westminster preoccupations.

But the listener may also be keeping an ear cocked for mention of a "flexible" EU. As usual with Euro-jargon, a bland word signals a political minefield. Mr Rifkind is still wondering how far he can wander into this explosive ground, for his advisers are divided on the wisdom of doing so. In fact, Mr Rifkind has little to lose and a great deal to gain by plunging into an argument whose terms are already being set by politicians elsewhere.

Big, bad ideas inside the EU often begin as single, apparently innocuous sentences buried in communiqués issued after the French President and German Chancellor have had one of their tête-à-têtes. Recently these documents have been sprinkled with terms like "reinforced co-operation" or suggestions for a "flexibility clause". Last week Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, suggested that the EU should be run by an inner club based round France and Germany.

Living in an EU half-run by an informal alliance between France and Germany is bad enough; domination by a formal, exclusive elite would be worse.

But there is an up side as well. As the appeal of a federal Europe dims and more and more states are poised to enter the EU at the century's end, people have begun to think more boldly about what the Union is for and what it might look like in ten or 20 years' time. Conventional wisdom sees two possibilities. Either the EU drifts into being a baggy, loose-knit association incapable of anything decisive or difficult, or it recovers its "capacity to act" — a term of which Jacques Delors was very fond — by allowing a small group of states to give a lead towards federation.

But other ways of redistributing power exist. A group of economists gathered by the Centre for Economic Policy Research recently produced a little book called *Flexible Integration: Towards a more Effective and Democratic Europe*. Perhaps because it is written in the lifeless English used by economists, perhaps because politicians who debate Europe are so entrenched that they have lost interest in new ideas, the book has attracted almost no attention. A lone Danish diplomat has been seen carrying a copy. But *Flexible Integration* should not only be on Mr Rifkind's desk but also in the briefcases of the Labour Party's European policy analysts.

The authors suggest that the EU can solve its problems only by working out what is worth doing in common, where collective rules really add value for everybody. Their suggestions include: the single market, trade policy, industrial policy, north-south subsidies, harmonised VAT, a reformed common agricultural policy and a co-ordinated monetary policy. This list might stick in the craw of many Euro-sceptics, but it is the thrust of the scheme that counts.

Beyond the common base, smaller groups of states would be allowed to form "open partnerships", but only under strict rules. Partnerships, such as a single currency zone, could be set up only when the entire EU agreed that they would not interfere with or harm the "common base". These clubs would be open to all states on reasonable terms. "For example, you wouldn't be able to exclude people who have blue eyes and who live on an island in the North Sea," says one of the report's authors, Professor Jürgen von Hagen of Mannheim University.

GEORGE BROCK

Sarajevo arsonists fan the flames of ethnic separation

BY MICHAEL DYNES

FLEEING Serbs set fire to Sarajevo's main market at the weekend, raising fears that Bosnia-Herzegovina is hurtling towards partition instead of the multi-ethnic settlement envisaged by the American-brokered Dayton accord.

In the biggest blaze of the scores of fires started by Serb arsonists in recent weeks, the main covered market in the inner-city area of Grbavica was raging out of control last night, with little or no attempt to suppress the flames.

Serb firefighters have refused to tackle the fires, while Muslim-Croat crews have been unwilling to assume the task because of Serb threats to their safety. Four hand-grenades were thrown at Muslim-Croat firefighters working in the market district of the city on Friday night, and a bomb exploded shortly after they arrived.

Most Serbs have left the Grbavica district, which is due to be transferred to the Muslim-Croat authorities tomorrow as part of a series of territorial exchanges. However, the retreating Serbs have looted and set fire to scores of houses and flats as part of a scorched-earth policy, while Muslim gangs have baited the few Serbs staying behind.

United Nations officials have publicly rebuked the Muslim-led Government for failing to stop Muslim and Croat gangs from looting and terrorising Sarajevo Serbs.

Alexander Ivanko, the UN spokesman, said that Muslim-Croat Federation policemen appeared "indifferent" to their obligations to preserve law and order. "Federation policemen were seen laughing and encouraging Muslims [who were] insulting Serbs and attempting to force them to leave their homes," Mr Ivanko said.

Nato troops yesterday detained 12 men whom they suspected of setting fire to buildings in Grbavica. There were unconfirmed reports that they had later been released.

Carl Bildt, the international mediator, issued a warning on Saturday that the rival factions were pushing relentlessly for ethnic separation instead of reintegration.

Since the signing of the Dayton peace accord in December, tens of thousands of civilians across Bosnia have fled areas being handed over to rival ethnic groups. Under pressure from their own authorities, Croats in two western towns and Serbs in suburbs around Sarajevo left rather than submit themselves to the civilian rule of their former adversaries.



Bildt: insisted that peace deal was not in jeopardy

Speaking after chairing a meeting between Bosnia's Muslim, Croat and Serb civilian leaders, Mr Bildt called on the federation authorities to create the conditions for the return of Serbs to the Sarajevo suburbs as a first step towards reversing the trend towards ethnic separation.

Insisting that the peace process was not at risk, Mr Bildt said, however, that the factions showed no sign of being able or willing to co-operate in rebuilding the economy.

During a meeting of Balkan leaders and the Western powers in Geneva today, pressure will be brought to bear on all parties to release the hundreds of prisoners still held in violation of the Dayton accords. The leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia will also be told that they have to co-operate fully with the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

☐ **Mostar:** A blockade of southern Bosnia's main transit road ended yesterday when Croat police let Muslims visit cemeteries on Croat-held land near the divided city of Mostar, witnesses said. Muslim protesters had blockaded the road where it skirts Muslim-held east Mostar after Croat police refused to let them pass through the western half of the city en route to the graves on Saturday, European Union sources said. *(Reuter)*

Medical advice ignored by Pope

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

LOOKING pale and drawn, the Pope yesterday defied medical advice and presided over a ceremony creating two new Roman Catholic saints. But he left after half an hour and has cancelled engagements for the rest of the month, casting doubt on his visit to Tunisia in April and Slovenia in May.

The first sign that he was ill came last Wednesday, when he failed to appear for his weekly audience. A Vatican spokesman said the Pope, 75, had a slight fever. On Friday he was said to have recovered and to have "woken up singing". But on Saturday the Vatican said he had suffered a "relapse" with "a digestive tract infection".

La Repubblica said the Vatican's refusal to say whether the Pope merely had flu or something more serious was causing concern. After the attempt on his life in 1981, when he was shot in the stomach, a section of the Pope's intestine was removed. In 1992 he had an operation to remove a colon tumour the size of an orange.

Most of the beatification ceremony was conducted by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican Secretary of State. The beatification of two Italian missionaries in Africa, Daniele Comboni (1831-1881) and Guido Maria Conforti (1865-1931), was held inside the Basilica of St Peter's instead of in the great square outside, because of rain. Even so the Pope only appeared for the opening, moving slowly and stiffly to greet worshippers before mounting St Peter's Throne to pronounce the beatifications at the start of the long service.

The congregation of 20,000, including Africans chanting and dancing and waving spears, greeted this brief appearance with prolonged applause. But the Pope, who suffered an attack of nausea during his Christmas message and has since endured a gruelling trip to Central America, looked exhausted. There had been reports that the ceremony would be conducted by Cardinal Bernardin Gantin of Benin, which would have increased speculation about an African Pope for the twenty-first century.



The Pope makes his first public appearance in Rome yesterday after suffering a fever

Lights out for café society in France

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

LONG-FACED French café owners gathered in Paris at the weekend for their annual convention, muttering darkly about the crisis in their profession.

More than 6,000 cafés will close this year. Although most French people profess sadness when told that another example of what is regarded as a national institution has disappeared, their sentimental attachment does not translate into active support. The number of cafés has decreased by 40 per cent in 15 years and a recent survey showed that one in two people never patronises cafés, while 37 per cent do so less.

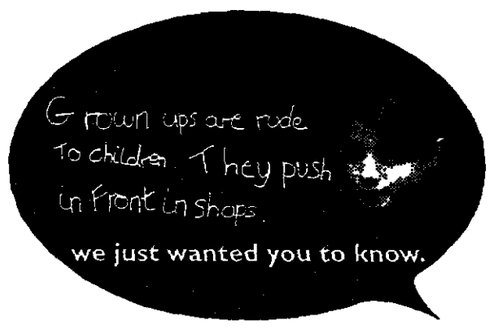
Even the language of the café, dating from a less hurried era when customers would order romantically named cocktails, such as a *môminette* or a *vol de nuit*, has all but vanished.

The arrival of a McDo — the popular term for McDonald's — in the neighbourhood can slice a café's profits by 30 per cent. Recently an influx of Japanese karaoke bars and Tex-Mex restaurants have cut further into the bistro's takings. A possibly more deadly predator is the cyber-café. A dozen have already opened in Paris, packed with rows of patrons silently surfing the Internet, communicating more intimately with a correspondent in New York than with the customer at the next table.

The cyber-café is the latest in a long line of attempts by frustrated owners to woo clients back. Concerts and poetry readings are now to be found in many cafés, while the philo-café, where clients debate such philosophical questions as "what is death?" also enjoys popularity.

Jean-Claude Bologne, author of *History of Cafés and Café-owners*, believes that we should not mourn the passing of the traditional café. "Every 50 years we announce the death of the café, without realising that new types of socialising replace the old ones," he says. "What is dying today is not the café but the postwar bistro which in its time killed the *café splendide* of the last century, itself the assassin of the French café of the 17th century."

Robert Henry, president of the National Union of Restaurateurs, blames the death of the city centre for loss of trade. "In small towns they have killed the centre with big department stores. In Paris, businesses are moving their offices to the suburbs," he said, adding that, when a big insurance agency in north Paris moved, it meant the loss of 350 clients for local cafés.



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Republics angered by Russian 'threat'

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

LEADERS of the former Soviet republics have reacted with irritation and anger to the Russian parliament's resolution to denounce the Belovezhsk Agreement, which buried the Soviet Union.

Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of Kazakhstan, said yesterday that the vote in the Duma on Friday was the work of "destructive forces". He said there were forces in the Duma which wanted to destroy the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was created by the December 1991 Belovezhsk Agreement to succeed the Soviet Union.

Leonid Kuchma, the President of Ukraine, called the vote "a real threat, not only to neighbouring countries but for the world community as a whole". He said: "Russian deputies have laid a mine under the CIS." Kazakhstan and Ukraine have reason to see the vote as a provocation to their large Russian minorities.

The vote will have serious repercussions only if Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, wins the Russian presidential elections due to be held in June.

Mr Zyuganov said yesterday that there was no question of reimposing the Soviet Union by force, but hinted that he would consider radical revisions in Russia's treaty obligations and the shape of the CIS.

Leading article, page 17

Bonn attacks Kurd violence

Bonn: Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said yesterday that violent clashes during weekend demonstrations by thousands of émigré Kurds were a "declaration of war" against the rule of law in the country.

"There has been enough Kurdish terror in Germany, enough police beaten and bloodied, business areas plunged into chaos, enough organised violent cross-border tourist trips," he said.

Violent clashes between demonstrators and about 10,000 police in the area of Dortmund caused more than 300 injuries, including at least 22 police casualties. About 1,200 people were detained of whom more than 300 were held in custody. The Kurds were demonstrating in support of a homeland of their own. *(AFP)*

Berlusconi dogged by bribery charges

BY RICHARD OWEN

ITALY'S election campaign begins in earnest with Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister, facing fresh accusations of bribery and involvement with the Mafia.

Signor Berlusconi denied the accusations, saying: "I have more connections with China than I do with Sicily".

The Centre-Right bloc led by Signor Berlusconi and the Centre-Left, led by Romano Prodi, will today present their candidates for the April 21 poll. Issues such as taxation have been overshadowed by an inquiry by the Milan "Clean Hands" magistrates into links between Renato Squillante, a Rome judge arrested last week on corruption charges, and senior members of Signor Berlusconi's Forza Italia party.

Behind the complex manoeuvring is a titanic struggle between Antonio Di Pietro, the Milan magistrate who began the Clean Hands anti-corruption drive in 1992, and Signor Berlusconi. Charges against Signor Berlusconi of bribing tax officials helped to topple his coalition Government in 1994 and led to his trial in Milan, which continues.

Signor Di Pietro was then himself accused of "abuse of office". However, he has been cleared of two of the three charges and is preparing to enter politics at the last moment, if cleared of the third charge today.

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Powell denials fail to halt frenzy over Dole running mate

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

GENERAL Colin Powell yesterday sought to quash a new wave of speculation that he would run for Vice-President with Robert Dole.

The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff insisted in an interview with the *Chicago Sun-Times* that he was not interested in the second spot on the Republican presidential ballot. He said he had not been persuaded to change his mind by polls showing that Mr Dole would be defeated by President Clinton in the general election next November, but could win with General Powell on the ticket.

The general said he had taken that possibility into consideration when he decided last November not to run for any office in 1996. Although he was then favoured to beat Mr Clinton, General Powell said he had looked deep into his soul and decided that the rigours of a presidential campaign would require a passion and commitment for political life that he did not have. He was also worried about the impact on his family.

Now he is becoming annoyed by the renewed speculation. "It really irritates me that a few people are purporting to speak for me, stirring up this feeding frenzy about my running for Vice-President," he said.

Nonetheless, the frenzy continues. Many Republicans, eager to regain control of the White House, are telling General Powell he could help Mr Dole to win and could then succeed him in four years to become America's first black President.

Newt Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, said he believed General Powell would accept an offer to be Mr Dole's running mate. "It's very hard for me to imagine General Powell turning down that kind of appeal to him, after a lifetime of service," Mr Gingrich said.

Similar wish fulfilment was voiced by Senator Alfonse D'Amato, co-chairman of the Dole campaign, who renewed his appeal to General Powell to run for Vice-President, despite having criticised him in the past as lacking courage and conviction.

Mr Dole, however, changed tack. Having seemed optimistic earlier that the general would "suit up" again if asked, he revealed that in spite of all the speculation he had not talked to General Powell about joining him.



Powell: annoyed by renewed speculation

In fact, Mr Dole's advisers have warned him that the more he discusses the general, the more he points to his own weaknesses. With the general's mind so firmly made up against running, they have suggested that Mr Dole might offer him the non-elective post of Secretary of State well in advance of the election.

If General Powell accepted, as some consider likely, Mr Dole would be able to trade on the general's reputation during the campaign. It would help in casting himself as a proponent of a strong foreign policy and in drawing unfavourable comparisons with Mr Clinton's record overseas. Another advantage in naming General Powell to foreign affairs would be to soften concerns of the Christian Right over the general's pro-choice stance on abortion.

That would leave Mr Dole open to make a vice-presidential choice among three powerful Republican Governors in the Midwest — George Voinovich of Ohio, Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin and John Engler of Michigan.

The election could hinge on a fierce battle for the populous Midwest swing states. Mr Clinton took them all in 1992, but a Governor from any one of them on the ticket might be enough to nudge a tight race in favour of Mr Dole.



A pipe band marching up New York's Fifth Avenue during the city's St Patrick's Day parade on Saturday. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, was one of those who joined the parade, which was watched by a million people. He earlier attended Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, where Cardinal John O'Connor called on the politicians involved to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland, adding: "Politicians ... do not cause or tolerate conditions that give pretexts to men of violence. I urge you to have the courage to face up to the cause of peace." *(Reuter)*

Adams joins parade

Clinton attacks 'back-alley' gun lobby

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton angrily denounced members of Congress who had listened to the "back-alley whispers of the gun lobby" before gutting an anti-terrorism Bill.

In his weekly radio address, Mr Clinton said a coalition of conservative Republicans and pro-gun Democrats in the House of Representatives had taken the teeth out of his anti-terrorism efforts.

Removed from the Bill were measures that would have allowed the federal Government to specify foreign organisations as terrorist and to deny US entry visas to their representatives. Also stripped were rules to ban terrorist organisations from fund-raising in the US and a provision for quick deportation of foreigners who support terrorists without publicly revealing evidence against them.

"Congress should listen to the cries of victims and the hopes of our children, not the back-alley whispers of the gun lobby," Mr Clinton said. It was unbelievable and ironic that, while he was attending the Egyptian anti-terrorism summit, the House was dismantling tough legislation designed to beat back the very same threat, he said.

One provision successfully opposed by the National Rifle Association would have required chemical marking of explosives that would make bombs easier to trace. Government agents were also denied the ability to use high-tech surveillance.

Woman accused of killing pregnant friend to steal unborn baby

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A PREGNANT teenager has been shot dead and cut open for her unborn infant, allegedly by a sterile, older woman friend who coveted her child. For the second time in four months, American murder detectives are coping with a crime of foetus theft, an act of unfathomable cruelty that they pray will not turn into a murderous trend.

The crime has thrown the Alabama town of Tuscaloosa into deep shock and was described by veteran policemen as the worst they had encountered.

Felicia Scott, 29, was charged with the capital murder of her friend Carethia Curry, 17, who was in the late stages of a pregnancy when Miss Scott took her out for a pizza supper on January 31. Miss Curry was not seen again until last week, when her body was found in a plastic rubbish bin at the foot of a 50ft ravine. Miss Scott, meanwhile, had appeared at her family home in Georgia holding a baby daughter. She claimed the child as her own and said that she gave birth in the back of a car, hence the lack of a hospital birth certificate.

Prosecutors have a different version. They allege that Miss Scott stole the baby girl from Miss Curry's womb after shooting her repeatedly in the head. The infant survived and now, six weeks old, is "doing well" in state custody.

Miss Scott had in recent weeks repeatedly told friends that she was pregnant, although there was no physical indication and police have found medical records which state that she had a hysterectomy some time ago. She and Miss Curry met when the teenage girl did some baby-sitting for Miss Scott's sister. When Carethia became pregnant, her older friend shared her excitement, but prosecutors believe that she harboured envy and regret.

Charles Freeman, Tuscaloosa's district attorney, said: "The body had been cut in the abdominal area, I am told sufficiently to have removed an infant." Tom Lowe, the experienced murder chief at Tuscaloosa sheriff's department, said: "I have never in my 21 years in law enforcement known a crime like this."

The body was found by a tramp who went to search through rubbish for cans he could sell to a recycling plant. Traces of blood were later found in the back of Miss Scott's car, which she had apparently tried to wash out. She denies the killing and is said to be "shocked and sad", but has been refused bail. Tests will be conducted on the baby and Miss Curry to see if their DNA matches.

The killing carries similarities to a case in Chicago, where in November a pregnant woman was killed and her foetus was stolen as she lay on the ground. One woman and two men have been charged with the murder of Deborah Evans, 28, whose baby boy was found at the home of one of the alleged killers.

Joseph Birkett, the chief prosecutor in that case, said: "The desire for a baby was clearly one of the guiding motives behind this crime."

WORLD SUMMARY

BBC deal on TV for Far East

London: The BBC World television channel is to return to the Far East after a two-year gap, the corporation announced yesterday. A deal struck last week will give BBC World potential access to the big markets of Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and China.

The move leaves just the US and Latin America outside the channel's reach. It will be broadcast digitally from the Panamsat 2 satellite from April 1, and available only to viewers with cable or satellite technology.

Cuban officials 'briefed by CIA'

Washington: Six Cuban officials, including intelligence officers, had an unprecedented CIA briefing in New York last month to show them that two light aircraft shot down by a Cuban MiG were not in Cuban airspace (Ian Brodie writes). One of the six may have been a pilot commander.

French police turn to suicide

Paris: Morale is so low among French police that one officer commits suicide every nine days (Susan Bell writes). This brings the total number of suicides to about 40 a year, according to a police sociologist. Most victims use their service revolvers.

Relatively low Einstein bid

New York: A manuscript of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity failed to meet its reserve at an auction here. Bids for the 72-page document stopped at $3.3 million (£2.1 million), short of the guide price of $4 to $6 million.

Former aide dies

New York: Roswell Gilpatric, who as an aide to President Kennedy played a key role in the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, has died of prostate cancer aged 89. *(AP)*

Obituary, page 19

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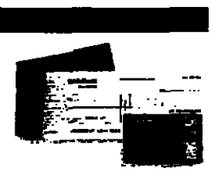
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Taiwanese leader denounces 'state terrorism' as Peking prepares to resume show of force

China tells US to keep warships out of strait

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

LI PENG, the Chinese Prime Minister, warned America last night not to send warships into the Taiwan Strait, where China plans to start a new round of military exercises today close to small Taiwanese-owned islands, two of which have already been evacuated.

Asked about the positioning of a US battle group headed by the aircraft carrier *USS Independence* near the strait, Mr Li said: "The question of Taiwan is a question of China's internal affairs, pure and simple, so no foreign forces should attempt to interfere in any form.

"If some people attempt to stage a show of force in the Taiwan Strait, this would be no help. On the contrary, this would aggravate and complicate the situation."

In a possible allusion to China's entry into the Korean War and later North Vietnam, where Chinese labourers helped to maintain the US-bombed railway system, Mr Li said: "If someone threatens the use of force against China, I am sure the outcome has already been proved by past experience."

But while China was warning off the Americans, Peking's position towards Taiwan may have softened slightly. An official told *The Times* that he did not think China would attack Taiwan. "I do not think the current exercises were meant to do that," he said soon after Mr Li's press conference.

The official added that "the two sides will continue to talk" after Taiwanese presidential elections next Saturday in which the incumbent, Lee Teng-hui, whom Peking has bitterly attacked for allegedly favouring Taiwanese independence, is the clear front-runner.

A similar message was conveyed to the BBC when Chen Jian, the Assistant Foreign Minister, said there were no plans to attack Taiwanese territory, although the Chinese military had shown its capability of doing so. China's armed forces would take military action only if it was "absolutely necessary".

While Mr Li was telling America to intrude no further into the Taiwan conflict, President Lee accused Peking of practising "state terrorism".

"Their power came from guns," said the President, a reference to Mao Tse-tung's famous dictum that "power comes from the barrel of a gun".

However, one of Mr Lee's bitterest political adversaries in the presidential campaign, Lin Yang-kang, who was expelled last year from the ruling Kuomintang party and who stands for better relations with Peking, attacked him yesterday.

"Mr Lee has led the two sides to the edge of a war," he said. He urged that a peace agreement with China be signed as soon as possible. Diplomats in Peking note that, while seeking more "space" for Taiwan internationally and even a seat at the United Nations, Mr Lee has always said that he favours reunification, but with a more democratic China. The presidential polls are the first direct elections on Taiwan.

China's exercises are viewed by observers here as an effort to dissuade the Taiwanese electorate from voting for Mr Lee, but reports from Taipei indicate they have had the opposite effect and that his popularity is rising.

They are also a function of uncertainties in the Chinese leadership at a time when the life of elder statesman Deng Xiaoping, 91, must inevitably be drawing to a close. Factions jostling for his mantle must show themselves to be tough and nationalistic at a time when the Chinese military is adopting a higher profile.

The site of the next exercises, which begin today and end two days after the polls, is only 11 miles from Taiwan's outlying islands of Matsu and Wuchiu, near China. Matsu, with Quemoy, was shelled by China in the 1950s when the US Seventh Fleet protected Taiwan after the Korean War.

American officials said they had been told that the Chinese exercises would be suspended on polling day, but there was no confirmation of that in Peking. Washington welcomed the end last Friday of missile tests, but urged Peking to stop all war games intimidating Taiwan, calling them "unnecessarily provocative". But the US took comfort from the fact that only four M9 missiles had been fired during the test.

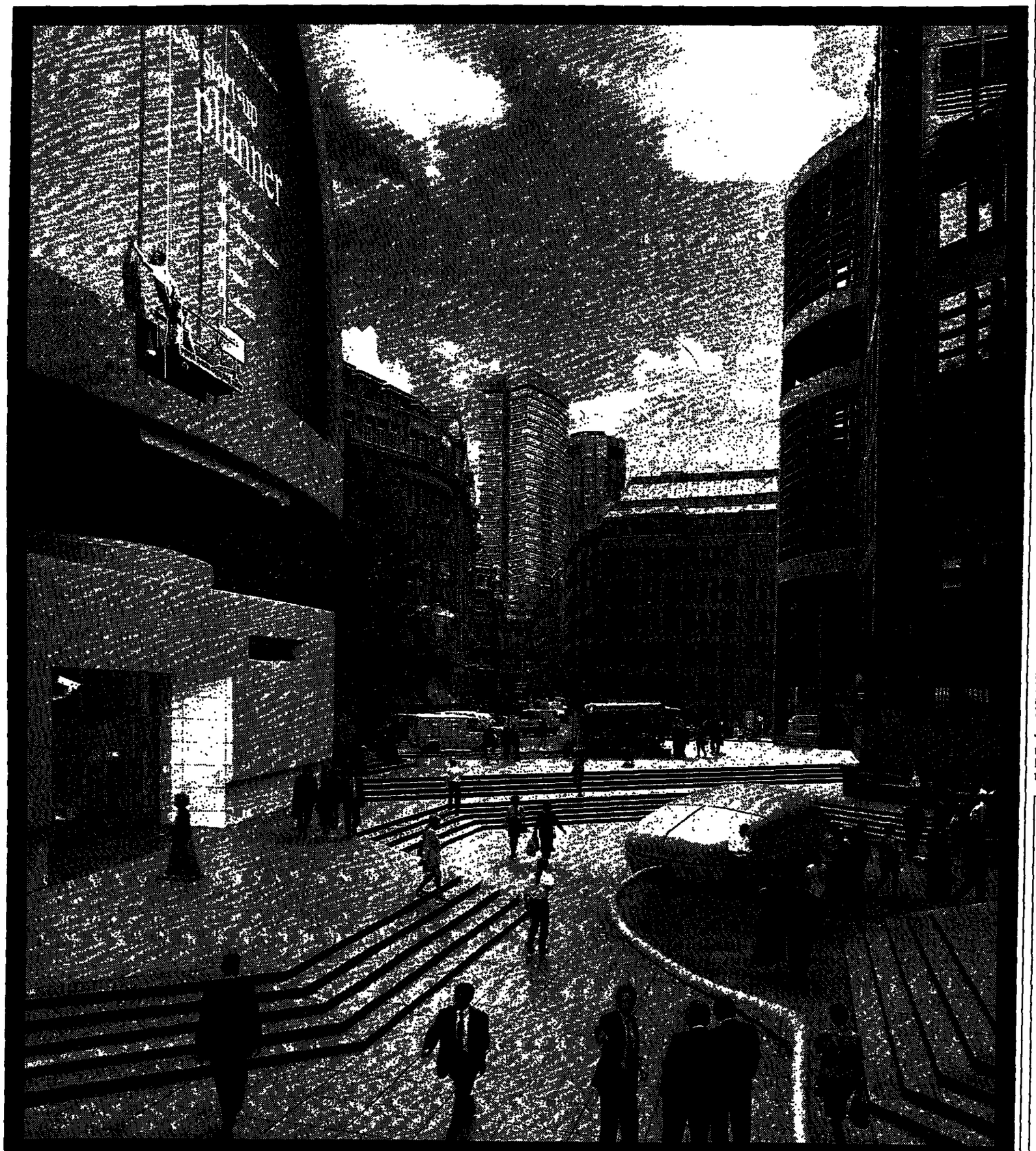
On the subject of Hong Kong, Mr Li said his recent meeting with John Major at the Bangkok Asia-Europe summit had been friendly and constructive. "I would like to express my support and endorsement of the decision by the British Government to grant visa-free access to Hong Kong Special Administration Region passport-holders," he said.

He did not agree with other British views that were not in line with the Sino-British Joint Declaration and Basic Law, but both sides attached great importance to seeing an increase in economic relations and trade, he said.

Old habits die hard in China. Mr Li's brief press conference was rigged. A few correspondents were invited beforehand to ask questions on selected topics. Some refused to do so, and those who raised their hands were not recognised. This was designed to present a harmonious version on national television.



A mother and son sing songs supporting peace between China and Taiwan at a vigil in Hong Kong yesterday



Effigy of Deng is burnt at Taipei opposition rally

FROM DAVID WATTS AND JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

TAIWANESE burned an effigy of Deng Xiaoping and denounced the "barbarians" on the Chinese mainland in a celebration of burgeoning democracy at the weekend. The demonstrations were in many ways reminiscent of the Philippines "people's power" protests of ten years ago.

"We Taiwanese are ready to fight — we are ready to die for this land," said Samuel Tsai, a businessman.

He, like many others at a rally of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, has been made even more determined by China's announcement of further war games in the Taiwan Strait beginning today. "Even if they send half a million men to come here, they will not win; we will fight and die. If the Chinese come here, they will be killed. They are a bandit country, they are barbarians."

Another man interjected: "We are part of the free world; the democratic world." Like Mr Tsai, he was one of thousands of DPP supporters who gathered in the centre of the city for a rally and democratic teach-in. The party is pressing the ruling Kuomintang (Nationalist) Government to pursue independence for Taiwan, and accuses President Lee Teng-hui of failing to make Taiwan's case.

In the square, surrounded by Western-style hotels which symbolise the island's economic success, Taiwanese pressed around foreign journalists as the smoke from the burning effigy rose into the warm evening air. Determined to make their views heard: demanding that the world be told of their frustrations with Peking, they were also critical of their own Government, which they accuse of corruption, mismanagement and iron control of the media.

Listening to them, it is hard not to believe that Peking has made a mistake for branding President Lee an arch-separatist. He appears to many of his countrymen as anything but.

Scotty Ho, who wears the trade-mark Taiwanese baseball cap and runs a photography shop, said: "Lee thinks that Taiwan is part of China. The KMT has controlled Taiwan for 40 years; it is time for a change. We don't even have a name and we are not part of the United Nations."

"We are not Chinese, we are Taiwanese," said a bespectacled woman with a child on her back.

"Singaporeans are ethnic Chinese too, but 98 per cent of them say they are Singaporean, not Chinese," said Professor Margaret Tsu, who teaches English at the National University. "If they come here, I will fight."

The slogan across the front of a blue van put it more directly: "F**k China".

Ru Chu-ming, a round-faced businessman, said: "For 50 years they have been threatening to come and they have not come. If they say that for 50 more years and then do nothing, I do not believe they will invade. We don't want to live with 1.2 billion people. We will be poor. If we join them, we will lose all our property."

A mild-mannered surgeon in his sixties came through the crowd which was listening to one of the weekly underground seminars, which is being broadcast on illegal radio. "Taiwan is Taiwan, not part of China. There is no evidence or law to show it is part of China. Lee wants to unify, but that would be death."

The President is becoming increasingly alarmed by such talk. Over the weekend he said he was afraid of "malicious, personal attacks ... [they] should be dealt with swiftly with counter-attacks". But he will not send in the tanks.

Peking shakes up crime laws

BY JAMES PRINGLE

CHINA'S parliament yesterday revised some of its criminal laws, approving measures assuming the innocence of defendants until proved guilty and fixing limits on how long suspects can be detained without charge.

Foreign envoys here welcomed the revisions. Until now, courts have usually been seen as confirming guilt rather than considering evidence.

Those suspected of an offence will be able to discuss their cases with a lawyer after being interrogated by police, who can hold a suspect for only 30 days before applying for an arrest warrant.

Diplomats pointed out that Chinese detained by the police now often disappear into a legal limbo for months or even years. However, at a recent meeting between judiciary and police to discuss new legislation, senior officials indicated that they would implement the new rules as they saw fit.

Some vague sections remained unchanged, permitting police to keep the detention of a suspect secret from his family and restricting the rights of detainees to remain silent.

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Pressure on Europe to get tough with Tehran

Arafat denounces Iran over suicide bombers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT, President of the Palestinian Authority, has for the first time openly singled out Iran as being behind the latest wave of Islamic suicide attacks in Israel and, in doing so, increased pressure for concerted international action to be taken against the mullahs in Tehran.

Mr Arafat's accusation came after claims by Israel and Britain at last week's anti-terror summit in Sharm el-Sheikh that Iran is directly involved in supporting extremist groups such as Hamas.

He told Palestinian demonstrators protesting against the closure of Gaza and the West Bank enforced by Israel in an attempt to halt the suicide attacks: "I have the right to ask, 'Who ordered the latest violent attacks?' Iran — Iran ordered them."

The Palestinian leader went on to claim that the recent attacks were instigated "by Iran and some Arab countries, and are designed to make the Palestinian people despair". It is understood he meant Libya and Syria.

In naming Iran in such a direct fashion, Mr Arafat has given valuable ammunition to the United States, which is working to persuade European Union members, notably France, Germany and Italy, to unite to isolate Iran as a pariah state rather than to continue a dialogue with it.

Western security experts maintained that Mr Arafat has also been goaded into speaking out by information that Iran is openly encouraging its terrorist surrogates to plot his own assassination. Personal security around Mr Arafat's Gaza headquarters has been strengthened further in recent days.

Israeli officials yesterday welcomed Mr Arafat's newfound willingness to point the finger directly at Iran, which is also backing attacks on Israel from Lebanon by its Beirut-based client group, Hezbollah (The Party of God).

The Israelis hope that Mr Arafat's comments will influence the attitude of the EU, which still supports the idea of bringing about change in Tehran by conducting a "critical dialogue".

"[French President Jacques] Chirac opposes the US-style isolation of Iran because 'it only benefits the most extremist elements'. Constructive engagement also benefits French industry, of course," the *Jerusalem Post* argued in a tough editorial yesterday.

"Chirac quoted an Arab proverb to justify his adherence to this discredited policy: 'Never push a cat to the corner of the room, it's dangerous.' Presumably allowing a hyena like Iran's 'intelligence services' to roam freely and be constructively engaged in the world is tolerable," the editorial continued.

Iran is also believed to be behind the training of suicide bombers aged 15 to 16 in Lebanon by a group calling itself "The Black Thirteenth of September" — the day the Israel-PLO peace treaty was signed — according to *Der Spiegel*, the German weekly.

The suicide bomber who carried out the attack in Tel Aviv two-and-a-half weeks ago was identified yesterday as Ramez Obeid, 23, an art student from a Gaza refugee camp.

"His friends from Islamic Jihad brainwashed him, this does not suit Ramez at all," one member of his family said.

☐ **Gaza:** The Palestinian Authority has renamed the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, an official said yesterday.

"From now on we will start saying the District of Gaza instead of the Gaza Strip and the Northern Counties of Palestine instead of the West Bank," Talal Aukal, of the Palestinian Ministry of Information, said. *(Reuter)*



Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, during yesterday's protest against the sealing off of the West Bank and Gaza by Israel

Voter apathy and violence overshadow African polls

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

VOTER apathy continued to dog Zimbabwe's one-man presidential elections on the second and final day of polling yesterday, even spreading to the rural strongholds of the sole candidate, President Mugabe.

By lunch-time, only 25 per cent of the 4.9 million registered voters had voted, officials said. Three candidates are listed, but the retired Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the veteran nationalist Ndabaningi Sithole withdrew last week, saying the poll was unfair.

Voting elsewhere on the continent was marred by violence or subject to delays. In Nigeria, up to four people were killed during municipal polls in the northern state of Kaduna when underage youths tried to vote, according to press reports.

The declaration of a President after elections to end army rule in Sierra Leone has been delayed by the late arrival of results from the interior, officials said yesterday. Much of the country has been cut off by a five-year civil war.

Sudanese were given the day off to vote yesterday, the last in 12 days of voting in the first election since the 1989 military coup. Results for the presidency and 275 parliamentary seats will be announced on Wednesday.

In Benin, the former Marxist ruler, General Mathieu Kerekou, may make a comeback against President Soglo, the World Bank economist who supplanted him, in the second round of voting today.

Electronic age is put on hold by Delhi bureaucrats

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THERE are two principal ways of acquiring a telephone in India: pay through the nose or wait about a decade. It is a feat of endurance either way.

The Delhi bureau of *The Times* has acquired a second line, made possible by a special allocation for journalists. Additional lines are desirable because dialling tones are so fickle. A cluster of wires hangs from a telegraph pole in the street outside the office, a miracle of bodge-up technology that unravels in the wind and sometimes falls off.

Rain and rats are enemies of telephones. The monsoon seeps into cables and crevices and rats chew through wires. The junction box in the marketplace, serving several hundred subscribers, is iron and should resist water and rodents, but they get in anyway.

The new *Times* telephone gave a triumphant first ring last week and died. This will be rectified today by the local lineman, who extracts more *baksheesh* than his salary from subscribers who know the futility of lodging official complaints. He is suspected of making phones go dead so he can fix them.

> "Come back with form tomorrow. You are liking India, yes?"

The business of acquiring a second line began at the offices of the state-owned Mahanager Telephone Nigam Ltd, where I queued for two hours for an application form. The *babu* (clerk) said to go away and fill it in: I returned the next day. *Babus* are the bane of people's lives. "You are needing affidavit," he said, and threw back the form, with a scrap of paper explaining the procedure.

It said that the affidavit must be written on non-judicial stamp paper, signed by the "deponent" and attested by a magistrate (first class), oath commissioner or notary public. To the notary. Behind Parliament Street there is a clutch of them, sitting at desks that look as though they have occupied the same patch of windswept dirt for 50 years, as do the notaries. Corrugated iron sheeting keeps the sun off this legal fraternity. I chose the man who bellowed loudest for business.

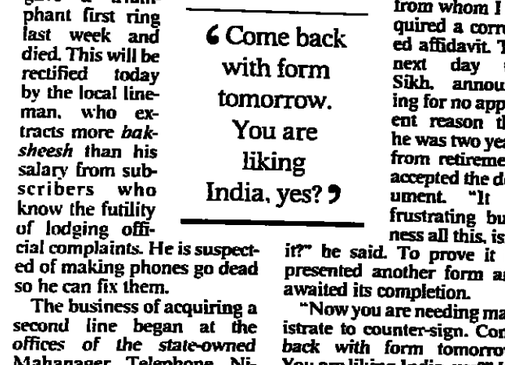
Twenty-five rupees later I possessed the legal affirmation that I am who I say I am, that I live where I say I do and that I have no other telephone anywhere in India under any special category allocation.

Back to Mahanager Telephone Nigam Ltd, this time to a grey-bearded Sikh who booms orders to his underlings like a regimental sergeant major. He found a fault in the affidavit, which stated that I was seeking a Non-OYT General Category telephone. It should have said Non-OYT Special Category. He turned me away and 200 people with application forms shuffled forward an inch.

Back to another notary who wore a starched wing collar, from whom I acquired a corrected affidavit. The next day the Sikh, announcing for no apparent reason that he was two years from retirement, accepted the document. "It is frustrating business all this, isn't it?" he said. To prove it he presented another form and awaited its completion.

"Now you are needing magistrate to counter-sign. Come back with form tomorrow. You are liking India, yes?" He suddenly took pity and summoned tea. It transpired that he could counter-sign the form himself if he had a mind to which, he eventually decided, he did. He promised the line would be released in only eight weeks.

Such promises should not be taken seriously. The local lineman, for an inducement, agreed to approach a certain *babu* to speed things along, and several days later a man arrived, demanding *baksheesh*. We settled on £10 and he hooked me up. The clerk at the phone office who processed my forms sent his compliments with an envelope, which I filled. I hope to get away with a fiver today when the lineman returns.



Charity Reg. No. 221124

From April, start making a record

There's no need to make a song and dance about it, but the first Self Assessment tax year begins on April 6th 1996. If you usually receive a tax return it will affect you. From April you'll be under a new obligation to make records of your income and expenses.

What records do you need to keep .....?

They include payslips, bank and building society statements, dividend vouchers, business earnings and receipts, and any other documents that could relate to your tax. Putting these papers in a file or large envelope as you go along will make it easier to fill in your first new-style Self Assessment tax return in April 1997.

How long do you have to keep them .....?

You'll need to keep these records for about two years, or up to six years if you're self-employed. So, starting the new system on the right note will make life a lot easier. If you need help, get in touch with your tax office (or tax adviser if you have one), now.

How to avoid penalties .....

There will be a clear timetable setting out what you have to do by when. Keeping to the right dates for sending back your tax return and making payments will mean you avoid interest and penalties.

Read the leaflet in your next tax return .....

To find out more, don't miss the special leaflet we've included with your next tax return, which should arrive soon.

To help further, we've prepared free information guides. If you'd like copies just send us the coupon or telephone our special number, anytime. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

Eye of the camera: Jeff Wall's large photoworks go on display at the Whitechapel Gallery

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



JAZZ

For the first time in Britain: Woody Allen, plus clarinet and jazz band, plays the Festival Hall

GIG: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



DANCE

Wonderland revisited: English National Ballet bring Derek Deane's *Alice* to the Coliseum

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



POP

Richard O'Brien offers a 'rock tour from hell' in *Disgracefully Yours* at the Comedy Theatre

OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

POP

Giant victory party

THE slow but irresistible rise of the Saw Doctors culminated last month with their *Same Oul' Town* album gatecrashing the Top Ten. It was an extraordinary triumph for folk-rock underdogs who passed through the hands of a major label and have doubled their money since resuming their Irish independence.

The last of four Friday engagements at the Empire during a month-long British tour was always likely to be a giant party, especially falling just before St Patrick's Day. But it would not occur to the group from Tuam in the west of Ireland to thumb their noses at the industry cynics.

Saw Doctors
Empire, W12

Their last stand at the Empire was a riotous two-hour ceilidh with enough lyrical references to their home town to make the Tuam Tourist Board proud. They led off with *World Of Good*, a typically rousing piece that gave them a Top 20 single recently, lead singer Davy Carton's strong, sure vocals setting the tone for a big-hearted evening.

Some songs that remain in the Doctors' bag predate their 1991 album debut with *If This Is Rock And Roll, I Want My Old Job Back*. One such, *Red Cortina*, was written in 1988 by Carton and fellow singer and guitarist Leo Moran, who can now depend on a four-figure chorus of fellow voices as he sings its catchphrase, "first love stays with you forever". Their instrumentation allows for whistles and violins to play a part, but the band works broadly in the rock milieu, with bassist Pearse Doherty and drummer John Donnelly providing a steady but never-strutting back-beat.

The band moved tirelessly towards two encores of 11 songs, keeping the party going with their own early anthem *I Useta Lover*. If they could bottle the sort of bonhomie that can make an entire concert hall feel better, the Saw Doctors would have the medicine show to end them all.

PAUL SEXTON

Two new Nigel Williams plays have little – and a lot – in common. **Alan Franks** reports

Defender of the faithful

On first appearances the two new plays by Nigel Williams, both opening in London next week, are by two different writers. At Greenwich we find *The Last Romantics*, an elegant debate on life and literature in the Cambridge of Frank and Queenie Leavis; at the Royal Court *Harry and Me*, an unseemly row about risk and ratings in the world of the celebrity chat show.

Anyone who knows Williams's work will also know that first appearances are an unreliable index of disparity. Almost 20 years ago his first novel, *My Life Closed Twice*, and his first commercially successful play, *Class Enemy*, invited precisely these non-comparisons, the one being an elegant debate on life and literature in the young graduates' London of the 1970s, the other an unseemly row in a sink school of the period.

Then, as now, there were clear links in the spectacle of individuals in revolt against the expectation of others, one operating in the politics of love, the other in the art of survival. And here are, on the one hand, Leavis clinging to critical values which are under the same attack as were the Edwardian certainties of Arthur Quiller-Couch 40 years before: and, on the other, a TV team wading grimly through rumours of its programme's demise.

The one is poised and articulate and trades in language with a capital L, as in Leavisite: the other is rabid and unbalanced, a three-way phone farce, and trades in language with a small f, as in foul. Yet each is at heart a passionate roar by an influential man threatened with a reduction from lion to loser by the passing of years and taste. Even as it happens, each leaves with touching loyalty to people and ideas whose time has gone.

Beleaguered as he is, Leavis can defend himself as effectively as he has enabled his students to do. More than 40 years after the publication in 1932 of his first significant critical book, *New Bearings in English Poetry*, he reflected that "we didn't need Nietzsche to tell us to live dangerously; there is no other way of living". In *The Last Romantics* we find him enmeshed in the truth of this observation, as much an Establishment target as Quiller-Couch. Cambridge's first Professor of English Literature, had been in the 1920s.



"I am probably trying to get control over things I can't control at all," Nigel Williams says

"What fascinates me about 'Q'," Williams says, "is that he represents so well the figure of the gifted amateur. Some old pal offers him a job, and suddenly there he is in academe. I believe that his spirit is still alive, but that it has gone into Grub Street, while teaching has become a far more embattled profession."

The theme of people holding the line against the worst of the new makes for a kind of atavism in much of Williams's writing. It is there in his most ambitious, if not best-known novel, *Witchcraft*, and in the elegiac *Country Dancing*, a play about the work of the folksong collector Cecil Sharp. It even surfaces in his successful suburban comedies such as *The Wimbledon Poisoner* and *They Came From SW19*. It is certainly there in sufficient quantity to make one ask whether he ever feels similarly engulfed himself.

"The other day I was asking myself why I write as I do," he says. "I think the answer is that I am probably trying to get control over the things that I really can't control at all. As Leavis says, it is not the words, it is the beyond-the-words. The reason that I so admire Mamet, Pinter and Beckett is that they write about people in extremis, whose language is evolved from crisis and from their attempt to deal with that.

"My hero (in *Harry and Me*) is not actually the host but the guy who does all the arranging and fixing. That's his job, to manage other people talking. He runs a chat show, all right a terrible one, and uses language to protect himself against the world. He is defending his turf." In so doing, he is also being vastly more diverting than the show itself. Rather as in *Noises Off*, it is the ghastly innards of the entertainment that prove to be the entertainment.

"He is saying: 'All right, you can think what you like about this, but I am not about to apologise for it.' I have been in TV myself, and am very familiar with people saying: 'Oh, it's just television.' But it's a perfectly respectable way of earning your living. I mean, it's not drug-dealing, is it? And this is a comedy about it. A bit bleak and grim, I accept, but, apart from a tiny sliver under the door, I don't seem to see very much hope in the world."

> 'I don't seem to see very much hope in the world'

"Been in TV myself" is economic with the truth when it comes from the editor of *Omnibus*. The question of how he conducts his parallel careers quite so productively is intriguing. One of the answers is that the nature of parallel lines is not to become mutually entangled. He says it is a matter of concentrating absolutely on what he is doing at a given time: "That, and eliminating peripheral stuff. Meetings about meetings about meetings. The pursuit of personal relations that aren't going anywhere."

When he became editor of *Omnibus*, the congratulations were tempered by the hope that it would not get in the way of his work. It does not seem to have done.

● *Harry and Me opens at the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW1 (0171-730 1745) on March 27. The Last Romantics opens at the Greenwich Theatre, London SE10 (0181-858 7755) on March 28*

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Answers blowing in the wind

Polish NRSO/Wit
Royal Hall, Nottingham

ONE of the major attractions of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra's tour of Britain has been the prospect of hearing — in six of the 15 places on the itinerary — Górecka play Górecki. It turns out, however, that no work could be less susceptible to the sympathetic touch of the composer's daughter than Henryk Górecki's Concerto for Piano and Strings. Consisting of two short movements of rhythmically driven repetitions, it needs no more than to be wound up, switched on and switched off.

The Górecki cause was not much helped either by Anna Górecka going on from there to play Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 1 in D flat, which is a devastating demonstration from a 21-year-old student composer of what variety, what passion and what creative energy can be contained within a short concerto construction. After that, the Chopin mazurka she chose to play as an encore in the Royal Hall, Nottingham, was the *coup de grace*, the final demonstration that one lyrically inspired or even merely thoughtful bar of music is worth any amount of metrical calculation. This was presumably not the point the pianist wished to make. In any other circumstances her sensitivity in Chopin, the breadth of her imagination and the quality of her relationship with the conductor and orchestra in the Prokofiev would have been nothing but positive.

In the Scandinavian items at the beginning and the end of the programme the orchestra displayed no less authority than in the Polish and Russian works in the middle. Antoni Wit, its musical director and principal conductor for the past 13 years, has developed a flexible ensemble which he controls efficiently enough without suppressing individuality. No other orchestra has a pair of bassoons quite like those which rasped so characteristically in the *Hall of the Mountain King* in Grieg's *Peer Gynt* and which were yet so eloquent in Sibelius's Second Symphony.

The oboes, too, have a sound of their own. The strings do not play so precisely together that they could clarify the detail at the beginning of the third movement of the Sibelius, but they are still so cohesive that they retain their place in the texture no matter what the opposition. And in a Sibelius interpretation as dramatic as Antoni Wit's, with no inhibitions imposed on brass or percussion, the opposition is certainly powerful.

The one miscalculation in the presentation of Sibelius's Second Symphony was in the transition from the third movement to the last, where the motivation was unclear and the impetus laboured. Sturdily based on its brass chorales and searchingly expressive in the slow movement, however, it is an interpretation of considerable stature.

GERALD LARNER

Unsettled siren

Barbara Hendricks
Wigmore Hall

IT FEELS like a long time since Barbara Hendricks last gave a solo recital in London; and it was therefore difficult to get to the root of the problems presented by her Thursday concert. Was she secretly indisposed? Are opera and international diplomacy depleting her energies? For there were problems aplenty, and it was an uncomfortable evening.

By the time she had reached her first encore, Fauré's *Après un Rêve*, the integrated registers, focused tone and long phrasing for which one had been waiting all evening were momentarily glimpsed. Perhaps it *had* all been a bad dream and the evening was only just beginning. But no: the real start was, alas, ineradicable. Schubert's *Mignon* songs revealed a voice deeply ill at ease with itself: bumpy vibrato, uneven timbres through its changing registers and a verbal metricality only exacerbated by Staffan Scheja's jog-trot playing.

Hugo Wolf's later settings of the same haunting Goethe poems from *Wilhelm Meister* saw Hendricks happier with both their greater rhythmic flexibility and their closer expressive definition. But the brisk speeds at which Scheja's fingers and Hendricks's soprano skimmed through the songs of longing and strange, visionary yearning were sadly reductive.

Each half was, fortunately in this case, scarcely more than 35 minutes long. After the interval came six of Wolf's settings of the Swabian poet Eduard Mörike, clumsily accompanied and sung as if learnt by rote. Hendricks is always more at ease in the French repertoire, and her Poulenc *Fiancailles pour rire* made lighter work of their quirky melancholy and gentle inflection. This was followed by Schoenberg's *Cabaret Songs* whose changing "roles" at least provided Hendricks with some sort of final focus.

HILARY FINCH

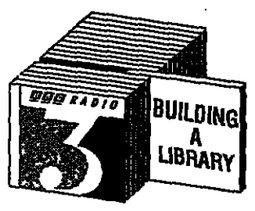
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CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

Ashes to ashes, lust to dust

LISZT's *LES PRELUDES*
by Chris de Souza



Liszt's *Les Préludes* began as an overture to a choral work on the seasons, and only on revising it as the third of his 13 symphonic poems did he add the quotations from Lamennais whereby each section became descriptive of the various stages in life, which can be regarded as a prelude to the unknown song which begins with death.

Performances on CD span 73 years. Two of the earliest — Mengelberg with the New York Philharmonic (1922) and Concertgebouw (1929) — are the most characterful (most modern performances seem straight-laced by comparison). For Mengelberg and Oskar Fried (see Koch's reissue of a 1925 recording with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra), Liszt's orchestral works were central to the development of the modern symphonic poem of Strauss.

Too many conductors try to make Liszt sound like Mendelssohn or Schumann, and *Les Préludes* has suffered from its associations with German wartime broadcasts. The style can be heard on a Preiser CD of Knappertsbusch and the Berlin Philharmonic in 1942. Postwar opinion had it that *Les Préludes* was mawkishly sentimental, and brazenly tub-thumping, but it's only like that if you play it like that.

By contrast, postwar recordings by Karajan (DG) and Haitink (a reissue of his ground-breaking complete set on Philips) tend towards the dour. Karel Ancerl's 1964 account with the Czech Philharmonic (on Supraphone) underlines Liszt's connection with the East European schools, but in spite of some luminous playing, sounds staid.

More recent recordings — by the Suisse Romand with Neeme Järvi (Chandos, 1994), Polish National Radio SO/Halasz (Naxos, 1991); Budapest Festival Orchestra/Fischer (Harmonia Mundi, 1991) — all have more freedom and excitement but less satisfactory recorded sound.

American orchestras fare well, although Muti's account with the Philadelphia is curiously Germanic and is offered on an ungenerous 45-minute CD on EMI. But **Leonard Bernstein** and the **New York Philharmonic** (Sony Classical SMK 47572, £9.95) combine Mengelberg's loving attention to detail with bravura technique and a fine recorded sound — although Bernstein does take an occasional liberty with Liszt's scoring when he finds it wanting. The string scales at the beginning of the final section are brought off brilliantly.

● *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barlby Road, London W10 6BL or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk*
● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Debussy's Piano Preludes*

THEATRE

The Undertaking
Deptford Albany

It is remarkable what you miss if you leave at the interval. If, instead of being in Deptford on duty, I had gone to see Philip Osment's new play out of casual interest, I do not think I would have stayed to see his characters find consolation on an island off the coast of Kerry.

Watching them being disconsolate somewhere in London was a largely dull experience, and a normally reliable rule in the theatre is that things get worse not better.

Still, rules are there to jolt us with their fallibility. Gay Sweatshop's twenty-first anniversary production is still a disappointment after Osment's recent work, especially for its lazy habit of allowing characters to answer questions about their past as soon as asked, but the second half does have its theatrically arresting moments. But not many.

The trouble is Michael, Osment's leading character, a touchy and hoity-toity teacher, emotionally dishonest with most of his intimates, terrified and ludicrously ill-informed, about the risks of becoming HIV positive. He cannot bring himself to remain long in the company of an old lover, dying in hospital from an Aids-related illness, though he does manage to start an affair with one of Henry's nurses.

He has also been living for years with earnest Sheila, unbelievably described as a press photographer, though Osment soon forgets this ridiculous fiction. They deserve each other.

The sassy nurse (John-Lloyd Stephenson) and Henry's queeny other lover (Derek Howard) make better company, though nothing is subtle or even novel about their characters.

The four of them are eventually on their way to the edge of a Kerry cliff, where they will scatter Henry's ashes, and this is the punning meaning of the title.

Michael's folly immobilises them on a track leading to a peat bog that just happens to be amazingly near the family farm he escaped from many years before. When his brother Patrick enters the action it is truth-telling time at last.

Not immediately, of course, though it only takes a couple of reminiscences for Michael to confess his terror, weep in his brother's arms and begin to feel much better.

This is quite unbelievable, and though the quasi-pagan ceremony of the ashes conveys a mysterious charm the play never finds a truthful way to reveal emotional contours.

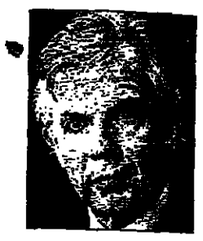
Osment writes a clever scene when all the characters but Patrick (Gary Lilburn) are high on Ecstasy; even Liam Halligan's po-faced Michael is better company here, mooching goofily around, entranced by the movement of a beetle. But the play is a lumpy mix of good intentions and poor practice. James Neale-Kennerley's direction does it no favours.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Royal National Theatre
Mary Stuart
by Friedrich Schiller
In a new translation by Jeremy Sams



Isabelle Huppert makes her British stage début as Mary Queen of Scots, with **Anna Massey** as Elizabeth I, in **Schiller's** compelling drama about the bitter power struggle which led to Mary's execution.
Director **Howard Davies** Designer **William Dudley**
Lighting **David Hersey** Music **Jason Carr**
Box Office 0171-928 2252
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Lyttelton Theatre: Previews Tonight, tomorrow, 20 March at 7.30pm, Opening 21 March at 7.00pm, then 22, 25, 28 March at 7.30pm, 23 March at 2.15pm & 7.30pm & continuing.
Anna Massey and Isabelle Huppert. Photo: Gautier Deblonde



MUSIC

From Cleveland with precision: Christoph von Dohnányi brings his great orchestra to the Festival Hall

CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



FILMS

Computerised fun, and toys, toys, toys: Disney's *Toy Story* comes to Britain

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



POP

***Missing*, presumed a hit: Everything But the Girl trip and hop into Shepherds Bush**

GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



BOOKS

Ruth Rendell completes ten years as 'Barbara Vine' with *The Brimstone Wedding*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Singing its praises

OPERA

Die Zweite Mrs Kong
Heidelberg/Vienna



Robert Schwarts makes a "muscular and engagingly puppyish Kong" in Heidelberg's staging of Birtwistle's opera

Some while ago *The Second Mrs Kong* was dropped from the invitation list for the South Bank's forthcoming Birtwistle spree, for lack of funds. Undaunted and unflagging, though, she has recently been putting in appearances as *Die Zweite Mrs Kong* at theatres in Heidelberg and Vienna, in productions which — partly through their differences from each other and from the Glyndebourne original of 1994 — prove the vitality, charm and variety of the composer's fifth and most recent opera.

It is also heartening to find his music at last commanding such attention, which ought to continue, for something else these productions prove about *Mrs Kong* is that the piece can be done with limited resources, by regional and surely even by student companies.

Heidelberg reveals its shoestring budget in tacky sets, but these are in the cheerful spirit of the occasion. In a small theatre and with a reduced orchestra sunk beneath the stage, the emphasis is on the singers and on Russell Hoban's libretto, which is likeably unfettered in its spatchcocking of world mythology, popular cinema, great art and social realism. The action, directed by Ralph Bridle, is more frankly presented than it was at Glyndebourne. We have a Paganini on stage to make sense of the phantasmagoric violin solos, and the vaporous love affair between a painted image (Pear, the Vermeer girl) and a celluloid idea (King Kong) develops touchingly.

Much of the success is due to the cast. As Pearl, Brigitte Geller is unaffected, sweet and accurate right up to the top of this high-flying part; when her image is projected on to a cross-lit screen, she also looks strikingly like the Vermeer portrait. Robert Schwarts, although he has problems with the upper edge of Birtwistle's tenor writing, is muscular and engagingly puppyish as Kong.

It is a pity that Orpheus has to be sung by a mezzo rather than the intended countertenor: in Vienna the excellent Angelos Fotiadis reminds us how much the role needs that plangent falsetto tone. Still, this is a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The first-night audience laughed a lot and went out happy.

At the Vienna performance I attended, nobody so much as grinned. That this was an altogether darker account was due partly to the fact that the orchestral music was now heard at full strength — and superbly played by the Györ Philharmonic under Andreas Mitisek — and partly to the high-tech Grand Guignol production, by Peter Pawlik. There was a lot of scowling and cruelty. Anubis was not the entertainingly portentous music-hall MC of Heidelberg but a raddled decadent of bizarre habits, and Kong not a playful furry animal but a near-nude, tense and athletic golem (Doug Jones), clambering around a gloomily lit steel-girder set.

Comedy was wilfully avoided, as in the presentation of the Sphinx as a severe woman in uniform, and magic too. But the real magic of the piece lies in what we hear from the orchestra — the fine, brave solos, the clatterings of tuned percussion, the ruminative regrouping for melodies, the moments of attack when the music suddenly swivels all its attention to what is happening on stage — and everything here was magnificently done.

Taken together, the two productions confirm how many great operatic moments this piece contains: in everything to do with the mirror that sings as a pair of coloratura sopranos; in the Sphinx scene; in the endings of both acts as duets which drift off elsewhere; in the sinister appearance of the Death of Kong; in the rescoring of a sequence from the film; in the first-act duet for Pearl and Kong; and in the realisation of Inanna, who in the text is just an ageing sex kitten, but who becomes through the music a character of steadily increasing depth and closer presence.

Hitherto, Birtwistle's operas have been predominantly male, and *Mrs Kong* is still centred on its masculine hero. But in the number, importance and richness of the female roles we may be witnessing a turn towards Birtwistle's future operas, of which the first, according to hints in the Vienna programme, is to be a journey into outer space.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Cold in a love climate

I Have Seen Someone
Riverside Studios, W6

LOVE and death have always been the *leitmotifs* of opera. Many plots turn on them, but these themes are the plot in *I Have Seen Someone*, a recent chamber opera by the Icelandic composer Karolina Eiriksdottir which received its first British performance as part of the new Nordic Music Season.

Based on a collection of poems of the same name by the Swedish writer Marie Louise Ramnefalk, Eiriksdottir's "musical dream-play" is a meditation on the way in which love is transfigured by impending death. It is set for four voices — dominated by a soprano She and baritone He — and takes the form of a prologue of happy recollection and three scenes where grief is confronted, accepted and transformed into a new beginning.

At least, that is what this opera is supposed to be about. Little came across in Thursday's performance, under the auspices of the contemporary music group Lontano. Either Frank Gabriel Perry's translation is hard to sing or the cast was lazy: most of the text went missing, and it was impossible to make any poetic sense of Ramnefalk's lines. Clare West's production consisted of tiresome, clichéd gestures and groupings. In return for a credit as designer, Nigel Adey provided a large rectangular box and some drapes; Paul Taylor's lighting contributed much more to the atmosphere.

Eiriksdottir's scoring is for conventional chamber orchestra, coloured by tom-toms, temple blocks and bongo drums. Lines are spare — of a bleakness, though, that is not necessarily Nordic. It is a pity that this music lacks a more strikingly individual voice, but one could admire its intensity and economy of utterance, and an atonal musical language that hints at tonality.

The vocal performances were uninteresting. In the central soprano role Sarah Leonard was guilty of plummy diction. The baritone Mark Oldfield was better, but only the mezzo Rebecca de Pont Davies got her words across well. As the other "helper", Niall Morris was strained by the high tenor writing. The conductor Odaline de la Martinez drew deft playing, but the performance fell flat.

JOHN ALLISON

LONDON

WOODY ALLEN: The veteran entertainer shows off his truly excellent skills as a jazz clarinettist, honed by years of Monday night sessions at Michael's Pub in New York. Allen's band for a brief European tour is the same one that in 1983 released *The Bunk Project*, a tribute to the old school New Orleans trumpeter, Bunk Johnson. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight, 8.30pm

THE MISANTHROPE: Last week of performances for this much heralded updated version of Molière. Perhaps too updated for the play's real good but vigorously acted, with Ken Stott and Elizabeth McGovern. **Young Vic**, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

THE SOLDIER'S SONG. Meanwhile, it is opening night for Belfast-born Bryan James Ryder's first play, accidentally apposite, telling of a family ignorant of the fact that their son is an IRA man with a mission. John Dove directs a cast led by Colin Tarrant. **Theatre Royal**, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Mar 20, 2pm. Until Apr 13

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

GUILDFORD: Austen-mania goes on, including the Good Company's tour of ***Pride and Prejudice*** Frances Cuka plays Mrs Bennet, Jonathan Cecil plays her long-suffering husband, and Cornelia Heyes O'Herlihy and Mark Healy play Elizabeth and Darcy; Sue Pomeroy directs. **Yvonne Arnaud**, Millbrook (01483 440000). Tonight-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm

HIGH WYCOMBE: The **Royal Ballet** opens its annual delight tonight, the small-scale **Dance Bites** tour. This year's offerings includes premieres by Emma Diamond, Tom Sapsford and Christopher Wheeldon; William Forsythe's acclaimed *Steptext* and Ashley Page's new pas de deux for Viviana Durante and Irek Mukhamedov complete the programme. **Wycombe Swan**, St Mary Street (01494 512000) Tonight, 7.30pm; tomorrow, 2pm and 7.30pm

LEEDS: **Stephane Grappelli**, the grand master of jazz violinists, headlines tonight's concert. He is complemented by guitarist Marc Fossel and Jean-Phillippe Viret on the double bass for a programme steeped in favourites. **Grand**, New Briggate (0113-245 9351/ 440971) Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEWCASTLE: Katie Mitchell's production of Euripides's *The Phoenician Woman*, and *Faust (Parts 1 and 2)* kick start the last week of the **Royal Shakespeare Company's** winter season. David Troughton dons the hump for the title role in **Richard III** tomorrow, with John Nettles and Michael Siberry as two of the victims **Box Office**: (0191-232 2061).

LONDON GALLERIES

Hayward: Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) . . **National Gallery**: At Home with Constable's *Cornfield* (0171-747 2885) . **National Portrait Gallery**: Lure of the Limelight: James Abbe Photographs (0171-306 0055) **Royal Academy**: Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7438) . . **Royal College of Art**: 100 Years of RCA Design (0171-584 5020) . **Serpentine**: Jean-Michel Basquiat (0171-723 9072) . . **Tate**: Cézanne (0171-887 8000/0990 661010) **V & A**: Leighton Frescoes; Back of the Envelope: famous art and design scribbles (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **THE CHANGING ROOM**. David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. Royal Court Classics season. **Duke of York's**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

□ **COMPANY**: Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra. **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **DISGRACEFULLY YOURS**: Richard O'Brien plays the satanic host at Club Inferno, giving his rock tour of Hell assisted by the Fabulous Frockettes and a band of Black Angels. Said to be witty and spirited **Comedy**, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8pm; opens Mar 20, 7pm.

□ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie. **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**. Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. **Garrick**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

◪ **LEE EVANS**: The rubber-boned stand-up transfers his so-so (excellent in parts) show here for a last 2 weeks. **Apollo**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm. Until Mar 30

■ **MARY STUART**: Isabelle Huppert makes her English stage debut in the title role of Schiller's great drama, playing opposite Anna Massey's Virgin Queen. Howard Davies directs. **National** (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens Mar 21, 7pm. In rep

◪ **SKYLIGHT**. Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm.

◪ **SONG FROM A FORGOTTEN CITY**: Y Cwmni's surrealist lament for Cardiff, a city that never became the high-energy metropolis that author Ed Thomas feels Wales has needed Briefly seen and admired at the Barclays New Stages Festival at the Royal Court last year, now in the Donmar's Four Corners season. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Tomorrow-Sat, 7pm. Ticket availability is for Tues

◪ **A TALENT TO AMUSE**. The words and music of Noël Coward, brought to life with skilful, sometimes mischievous charm, by Peter Greenwell, Coward's accompanist for ten years **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

■ **TOMMY**: Hugely impressive staging of the traumatized child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

THE MOST TERRIBLE TIME OF MY LIFE: Variable pastiche thriller from Japan, with Masatoshi Nagase as a Yokohama detective. Director, Kaizo Hayashi **ICA** (0171-930 3647)

◆ **NIXON** (15): Exhausting, overlong portrait with Anthony Hopkins and too much razzle-dazzle from director Oliver Stone. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 33321 **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **CASINO** (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

LA CEREMONIE (15): The perfect housemaid gets her revenge on her employers Absorbing version of Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement in Stone*, with Isabelle Huppert and Sandrine Bonnaire. Director, Claude Chabrol **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

OTHELLO (12): Laurence Fishburne as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago Oliver Parker's lively version for general audiences

Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **RESTORATION** (15): Life and loves of a 17th-century physician (Robert Downey Jr.) Costume extravaganza loses its way With Meg Ryan and Sam Neill Director, Michael Hoffman **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U): Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance Director, Ang Lee **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **STRANGE DAYS** (18): Uncomfortable apocalyptic drama, with Ralph Fiennes as a trafficker in virtual reality With Angela Bassett Director, Kathryn Bigelow **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

ENTERTAINMENTS

ANTIQUE & ART FAIRS

BRITISH ANTIQUE DEALER'S ASSOCIATION FAIR. 19-26 March. Open weekdays 11am-8pm. Weekend 11am-7pm. Closes 5pm Wed, 6pm last day. CHARITY GALA 'Action on Addiction' Wed.20th, 6-8pm. Information:0171-730 6730. DUKE OF YORK'S HEADQUARTERS (Nr.Sloane Sq) Kings Rd, Chelsea, SW3.

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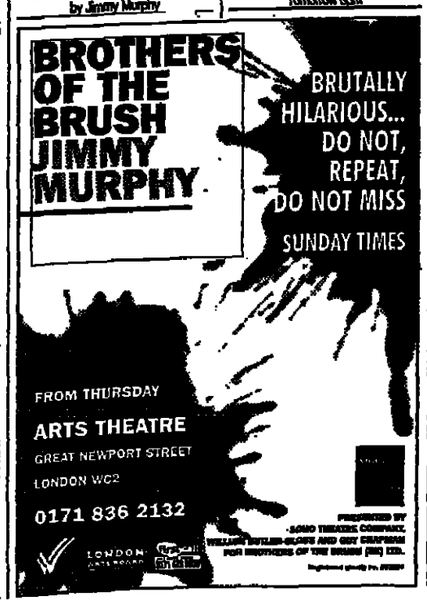
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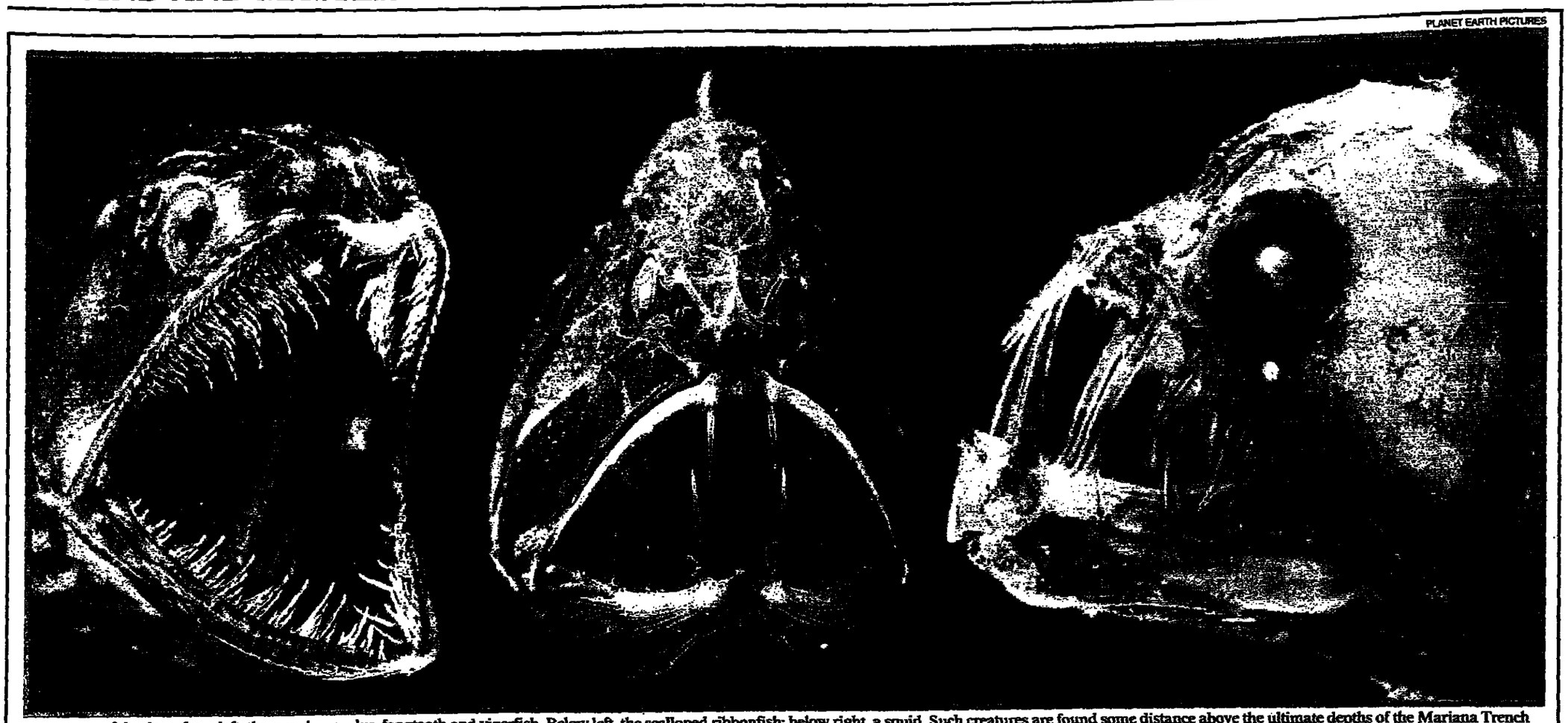
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Creatures of the deep: from left, the pseudoscopelus, fangtooth and viperfish. Below left, the scalloped ribbonfish; below right, a squid. Such creatures are found some distance above the ultimate depths of the Mariana Trench

Faces from the final frontier

The floor of the ocean is the deepest, most mysterious place on our planet. Now scientists are starting to unlock its secrets, says Anjana Ahuja

They are thought to be inhabited by fantastical life forms and littered with untold riches, but what secret worlds really lie at the bottom of the oceans?

These "dark unfathom'd caves", as the poet Thomas Gray was moved to describe them, are regarded as the last great unknown. Considering that humans have smashed the atom, climbed Mount Everest and landed on the Moon, our ignorance about the oceans is a breathtaking gap in science.



By an accident of timing, a collection of expeditions this year promises to end some of our ignorance. A fortnight ago, Japanese researchers broke their own world record by sending an unmanned submersible to almost 11 kilometres beneath the Pacific and sending back video footage of life in the depths of the Mariana Trench, the deepest point in the ocean. This summer, European scientists, including a British contingent, will send a fleet of robots to scour the bottom of the Atlantic.

The record depth of 10,898 metres was set by researchers working on the Deep Star programme at the Japan Marine Science and Technology Centre in Kanagawa. To put that in perspective, Mount Everest is about 8,800 metres high. The three-metre-long submersible *Kaiko* (meaning "trench" in Japanese), suspended from a parent submersible, touched the bottom of the Mariana Trench off the coast of Japan.

Because sunlight cannot penetrate beyond a depth of 1,000 metres below the surface, a halogen lamp onboard *Kaiko* was used to illuminate this dark world. Images were sent back via a cable containing optical fibres interwoven with metal, and filled with oil to counteract the huge pressures in the trench. The submersible itself is also filled with oil.

A brief but excited fax from the mother ship described the scene captured on *Kaiko's* camera: "The bed of the Mariana Trench was filled with a fine mud of reddish brownish particles. There were no rocks or cracks at all and it resembled a desert. However, very unusual organisms were observed here and there."

In another fax, the researchers attempted to characterise the mysterious creatures. They described types of sea urchin, lugworm, crustacean, and what looked like the excrement of sea organisms. The landing and manoeuvring of the submersible repeatedly disturbed the mud, affording occasional but tantalising glimpses of strange organisms buried beneath.

Professor Koki Horikoshi, the head of Deep Star, was stunned when he saw the video footage for the first time on Friday. "The ocean bed looked like a completely smooth, red-brown desert," he said. "It was incredible, because nobody has seen such a colour in the sea before. We are used to it looking grey or black, like the Moon. It was entirely different.

"There was absolutely no current. This is quite remarkable because at a depth of 6,500 metres, the current is about 1.5 knots, which is pretty fast. We made three separate visits and each time there was nothing. The place looks like a morgue."

The third trip, made on March 4, revisited the exact spot which *Kaiko* had descended to five days earlier on its maiden voyage. *Kaiko* had scooped out a sample of mud to bring to the surface and, remarkably, the hole was still there, proving to the team that the bottom of the trench was, indeed, a motionless pit.

Professor Horikoshi was amazed at the life forms he saw: "There was a translucent, white jellyfish about five centimetres long, moving fairly fast. We also saw a shrimp, but it was moving so fast we could only tell it was white and about three centimetres long. There was a kind of sea cucumber, which was the same size as the jellyfish, and looked like a gherkin."

He said he had expected any creatures to be smaller than a centimetre. This sparse community of creatures on the floor were also less bizarre-looking than the miniature monsters patrolling the mid-ocean layers.

The manipulator (a mechanical hand) used to collect mud samples does not move fast enough to catch moving creatures but this may be rectified for future visits. However, even if researchers can snare them, it is not easy to study higher organisms at the surface. Because they are adapted to the enormous pressures of deep ocean life — caused by the sheer weight of the water above — they would explode if brought to the surface.

Even now, the researchers looking at much smaller micro-organisms in the mud samples have to culture them at 1,000 atmospheres (a thousand times atmospheric pressure). The pressure at the bottom of the trench is about 1,100 atmospheres.

Some micro-organisms are impossible to grow at all, and in these rare cases the organism's DNA profile will be recorded. The Deep Star researchers hope to complete this painstaking analysis within a month, and microbiologists at Kent University and the Science Museum in London are standing by to classify *Kaiko's* astonishing discoveries.

The work conducted in Japan is unique because it is looking at the deepest point on Earth. Oceanographic research due to begin this summer will look at more typical ocean floor depths of about six kilometres.

The three-year Alipor project — Autonomous Lander Instrument Packages for Oceanographic Research — will send a fleet of 20 robots, called landers, to the floor of the northeast Atlantic in July. The robots, to be deployed from the Royal Research Ship *Discovery*, will conduct experiments, gather biological and chemical data, and track scavenging fishes in the deep sea. Such a large armada will allow much of the ocean floor to be covered very quickly.

Aberdeen University is a participant in this European Union-funded project, which includes six other countries. "In order to look deeper than one kilometre we need new technology," explains Dr Monty Priede, head of the Deep Ocean Research Laboratory at Aberdeen University. "The landers can get down to six kilometres, which covers everything except the deep trenches in the Pacific." The project has involved biologists, chemists, engineers, physicists and geologists, which illustrates what a feat of co-ordination organising deep-sea research is.



Dr Priede, a zoologist, wants to study the community of deep-sea fishes which live on the ocean floor. "There are several hundred species down there, and because the oceans occupy nearly three quarters of the Earth's surface, these are among the most abundant species in the world," he says.

Their eating habits are a mystery, but all their food must come from the surface in the form of dead animals falling to the ocean floor. *The Science of Life*, co-authored in 1929 by J.S. Huxley and G.P. Wells, called this nourishment "a rain of death".

The oceans are an important sink for carbon dioxide, which is absorbed by algae in the surface layers. These algae are eaten by plankton, which in turn become fish fodder. Dr Priede adds: "A study of what then happens in the deep sea may help us to discover whether the carbon remains locked in the ocean or is recycled to the atmosphere. The research therefore has implications for global warming."

There are other reasons for looking at the ocean floor. "It is interesting to predict what would happen if we dump, say, oilrigs down there," says Dr Priede. "Apart from the floor underneath the rig getting squashed, would it do any harm? We need to find out because the deep ocean could become the ultimate dumping ground for human waste."

These and other issues in deep-ocean research will be touched on at various exhibitions around Britain, as part of National Science Week. A number of oil companies, including BP and Shell, are meeting in London tonight to discuss partnerships to explore the Atlantic for oil. On a lighter level, the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport, Hampshire, will look at the science of submarines, and the Southampton Institute will be taking visitors on virtual reality trips to the bottom of the ocean.

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Breaking into the Internet



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

EVERY code devised by man can be broken, so they say. But computer experts have been shaken by the ease with which Paul Kocher, a biology graduate turned computer security consultant, has broken the much-vaunted "public key" codes used to protect data flowing on the Internet.

He did it by the simple process of measuring how long computers took to decode messages using this type of encryption. The time it took gave him precious clues that enabled him to break the code, and win a $1,000 prize from the Internet publisher Netscape for doing so.

Public key cryptography is a clever method for making messages sent over the Internet, or other computer networks, secure from snoopers. The system depends on two keys: one public, and made known to anybody who wants it, and the other private, and known only to the recipient of the message.

Let us suppose you want to send a private message, ordering goods from a supplier. You look up the supplier's public key and use it to turn your order into an undecipherable jumble. At the other end, the supplier uses his private key to restore the message to plain text.

The system depends on the use of very large numbers, and mathematical operations that are easy to do but hard to undo. For example, it is easy to multiply two numbers together, but much more difficult to split up the product into all possible prime numbers. If the numbers used are large enough, then decoding by finding all the possible primes is impossible in a reasonable period of time, even using the most powerful computers available.

Mr Kocher got round this by measuring how long a computer took to decrypt messages — the electronic equivalent of guessing the combination of a lock by watching somebody turn the dials and seeing how long each took.

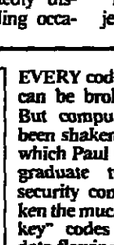
He took the public key for a supposedly secure system, and sent messages using it, timing how long the computer took to respond. After a large number of trials — typically a few hundred to a few thousand — the time measurements provide clues about what is happening as the message is decoded. He duly succeeded in cracking the code, to the horror of those who had believed it unbreakable.

Is this a real threat to Internet security? "Oh God, yes," Bruce Schneier, a cryptography expert, told *Scientific American*. "You can't belittle it. It's not only a theoretical attack — you can do this".

Even worse, the attack can be carried out step by step. It guesses the private key bit by bit, and mistakes can be spotted quickly. Then all the hacker has to do is go back, correct the error, and try again. In this way, even the most complex codes can eventually be cracked.

Fortunately, it doesn't work on all systems that use public key cryptography. The vulnerable ones are those that respond immediately to messages, enabling the hacker to make accurate timings of how long decryption is taking. If additional programs inserted arbitrary delays, the hacker would be defeated. But this would slow down the operation of the network, which might not be popular.

Another possibility, which Mr Kocher says Netscape will adopt, is to introduce another stage, multiplying messages by a random number before encryption. That would defeat the timing technique, but there may be others, Schneier says. "You can measure power consumption or heat dissipation in a chip — timing is just one way. The moral is that there's always something else out there."



Whiff of mothballs in space

OUTER space provides no escape from the chemical ingredients that make city life unpleasant, according to astronomers. The Milky Way, it seems, is as smoggy as the dirtiest street.

For years, the study of the material in the empty reaches of space has suggested that it includes large amounts of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). On Earth, PAH is produced by the process of partial combustion, such as a sooty flame or a diesel exhaust. But the confirmation that there really is PAH in outer space has come from the analysis of material from meteorites.

Today, at a Lunar and Planetary Symposium at Johnson Space Flight Centre in Houston, graduate students Simon Clemett, from Stanford University, and Scott Messenger, from Washington University in St Louis, will report that they have found PAH molecules in fragments of graphite from four meteorites.

Measurements of the carbon isotopes in the PAH suggest that the material originated in interstellar space. The team believes that they may well be the oldest molecules ever studied — older than the solar system. Among the molecules they found was naphthalene, the stuff of mothballs. So when an astronaut complains that outer space smells like his granny's wardrobe, we'll know why.

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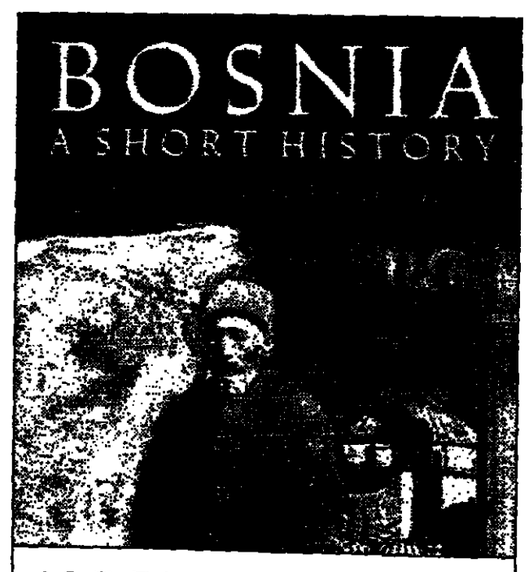


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My dream of a future for Henry

Henrietta Spink relives her lonely battle to unravel the mystery of her elder son's handicap

Interview: Mary Riddell
Photographs: Michael Powell

HENRY SPINK was born at 3.25pm on January 26, 1988, after a short and easy labour. He weighed nine pounds, his hair was a black thatch, and postnatal tests confirmed that he was perfect.

For his mother, Henrietta, the birth was the final endorsement of her new-found happiness. Her upbringing had been both aristocratic and deprived, her teenage years wild and unhappy. Henry's arrival, she believed, would banish the last ghosts of the past.

"Life was just incredible. I'd married a wonderful man. I was settled in a traditional marriage. Henry was conceived on our honeymoon in Bali, and when he was born, it was a day of true elation. Just one day."

By the time he was 24 hours old, she knew, instinctively, that the happy ending might never come to pass. On the odd occasions that Henry awoke, his stare was vacant, he would not feed. Yet still every routine test deemed him flawless.

He was just over three months old when a local doctor took out a raisin from a packet, waved it in front of Henry's blank eyes and told his mother: "I think he has brain damage."

She did not break down. Instead, in that moment, Henrietta Spink decided that she would fight for her son's future. Eight years have passed, and her quest — now, she believes, in its final stages — would have driven a less tough woman beyond endurance and sanity.



Henrietta and Michael Spink with their children, Freddie and Henry

From the outset the doctors were, at best, perplexed by what was wrong with Henry and, at worst, indifferent. The solution, if it existed, would rely on Henrietta, ignorant both of medical science and of the further heartbreak which lay ahead. Of the three children she has conceived since Henry, only one, Freddie, has survived, and he, too, is terribly handicapped.

Many times it seemed that there was nothing left to sustain her, bar an endurance instilled long ago. "I'd had a tough upbringing, so I could cope with awful situations. There was a huge amount of wealth in my family, but it appeared a great deal more gilded than it was."

Her great uncle is the Duke of Sutherland. Her great aunt was the former lady-in-waiting to the Queen, Lady Alice Egerton, whose suicide has recently been raked over by the press. Henrietta was three when her father, David Babington, a financial consultant, left the family.

"My mother married a former priest. We were always moving house, there was no money. I went to nine schools and learnt nothing. I left home at 17, lived with a French legionnaire and didn't phone my family for seven years. I had no roots, no home. When I met Michael, it was love at first sight."

Michael Spink, now a director of his family's fine art firm, Spink and Son, was the epitome of the comfortable, middle-class lifestyle she had never known. Engaged after 11 days, they dreamt of the future they would build.

An elegant London home. Logs on the fire, hyacinths on the hearth, opera on the CD player . . . just as it is today. But no one could plan for Henry.

> 'I wished I could pull the tubes out and it would all be over'

"After we were first told he might have brain damage, he was referred back to hospital. The senior registrar said there was definitely a problem. He was far too floppy, and they told us to go away and bring him back when he was one year old.

"They assumed there was massive brain damage, and, though we never admitted it, we did too. He couldn't swallow, so it took me three hours even to give him a bottle. But somehow, even then, I believed he would be all right. I could imagine him running, reading books, going to university. I felt he would get there . . . only I had no answers."

By the time Henry was one, she was pregnant again. That child died in her womb at four months, and the only positive sign in a terrible year was a CAT scan which showed, to the doctors' incredulity, that Henry's brain was normal.

But still no one could explain why Henry was so disabled. At two years old, he remained as inert as in infancy. Meanwhile Henrietta, to her shortlived joy, was once again pregnant.

"The first scan showed up an external tumour, and they said that if the baby was born, it would not survive the operating theatre. I thought 'I want his child', but I knew that I must have an abortion. It took a lot out of me, and all the time I was fighting for Henry."

By then her battlefield had widened. When conventional medicine provided no answers, Henrietta turned elsewhere. Osteopathy, healing and, later on, biochemists, allergists, even mediums — all of these would be harnessed to her quest, in the fragile hope that alternative treatments might provide some clue.

A further scan when Henry was three produced no fresh insight, and, amid the uncertainty, there was only one positive note. Geneticists assured the Spinks that there was no reason why Henrietta should not have a healthy child in the future.

And so she became pregnant once more. This time, no risks would be taken. "I was scanned 20 times, and all they said was that the baby looked thin. Freddie was born by Caesarean. He was very small, and I can still remember his angry little face, blue and staring at me, and the hiccuping sounds he made when he tried to breathe."

Within 15 minutes, he was on a life-support system, and although his parents did not yet know that half his diaphragm was missing and that he had terrible internal damage, the omens were clear.

Prepare for him to die, the Spinks were told, as they sat alone for four hours, trying to comprehend this latest disaster. "Those hours were the closest I felt to hell. Michael was too shocked to believe what was hitting him. But even then, we told each other we would cope.

"Freddie spent the first two-and-a-half years almost dying. It was a nightmare. He was sick up to 40 times a day, and he had constant high temperatures and infections. Watching a child I thought was going to die was far worse than having a handicapped child and trying to find a cure. Sometimes I just wished I could pull all those tubes out and it would be over."

Henry is eight now and Freddie four. Although Henrietta still works for a few hours a day as an Islamic art restorer, her life would, by normal standards, be intolerable. Neither child can walk unaided, and while Henry is always tractable, Freddie's problems have made him so difficult to cope with that even a family trip to Sainsbury's is an ordeal.

Deemed by the authorities to be affluent enough to cope, the Spinks have had little help from social services. Exhausted from lack of sleep, starved of any time together, impoverished by the huge costs of caring for their sons, they continued to hope, as Freddie improved, that some miracle would decree a future for Henry.

It was against that bleak background that the breakthrough happened. Convinced that the answer lay in biochemistry, Henrietta commissioned new tests.

The results showed severe cellular magnesium deficiencies and identified, she believes, the root of his problems. But still a piece of the jigsaw remained missing, until recent analysis in America finally linked Henry's enzyme defect to traces of mercury poisoning in her.

The cause could, she thinks now, be due to something as simple as an abnormal sensitivity to fillings in her teeth. It is possible, too, that mercury may suggest a link between the different handicaps her children have suffered.

All Henrietta knows for sure is that on the day that Henry had his first injection of magnesium, the constant fits he suffered stopped for good. He is at last taking his first steps, starting to communicate and feed himself.

And she can believe, as she watches him flourish, that her campaign has not been in vain. But she will never forget the lonely years when she had to drive on against the inertia of a system seemingly indifferent to Henry's needs and her prayers.

This month she is setting up the Henry Spink Foundation, a charitable trust dedicated eventually to providing all that she lacked: a vast centre full of treatment rooms, where the parents of handicapped children, lonely and dispirited and bored and frightened as she was, can meet and talk.

"If you hope, you are seen as foolish or eccentric. A mother of normal children is allowed to dream for them. Parents of handicapped children are not."

But now, every time she gazes into her son's face, she sees the realisation of all she dared to long for. The proof, delivered in a slowly dawning smile, that Henry was not born in vain.



Henrietta Spink: "A mother of normal children is allowed to dream for them. Parents of handicapped children are not"

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Tunku Varadarajan can finally get a good night's sleep

The world draws stumps

THOUSANDS of ardent cricket-lovers in this country will find themselves orphaned today. The World Cup has ended, the Sri Lankans have won, deservedly. And the days return, dragging their feet like reluctant schoolboys, to the way they used to be.

Cricket Man is today forlorn, resigned now to a period of insipid, murky cricketlessness. Not till June, when the Test matches against India begin, will he be blithe again. (County cricket starts earlier, but this is as exciting as watching the Michael Atherton stubble grow.)

Cricket Man, these last five weeks, has been remarkably easy to recognise. He is blearier-eyed than anyone else on the morning Tube. He is restless; his dazed gaze fixed on the sports page of his own paper, he raises his eyes only sometimes to steal a glance at the girl beside him. Scores, match reports, punditry — he cannot get enough. At work, he rushes to newspapers he would not otherwise touch, in a breathless, cricket-induced promiscuity. Readers of *The Guardian* can be seen clutching *The Times* ("I wonder what delights Simon Wilde has dug up for today?"); *Telegraph* readers grope for *The Independent* ("Good man, Derek Pringle, I knew he'd say that Illingworth should be sacked!")

In the office, Cricket Man is Awol (always whooping and occasionally livid): coffee breaks are frequent. Chats on the phone — to other Cricket Men and, sometimes, Ladbrokes — are frequent too. He gets up often to stretch his legs, which seems always to take him in the direction of the nearest TV set. "Ooohh!" he gasps, to the annoyance of a busy colleague blest with a desk close to the action in spite of her lack of interest.



Illingworth: calls to quit?

Returning to his desk, he busies himself to perform the job for which he is being paid, but the steel in his resolve rusts all too quickly. The phone rings. "Atherton's gone," a furtive voice whispers. Oh, woe, oh obscene void. Gloom descends, a cigarette is lit, the legs must be stretched again. But frankly, Cricket Man would rather be at home. And if he has not got satellite he'd be happy to spend the night at the home of any friend who has.

With matches starting just before four in the morning, GMT, night-time preparation has been essential. An alarm clock radio lay by the bedside, pre-set to pre-dawn Christopher Martin-Jenkins. Another alarm clock, vital cricketing insurance, had also to be set, placed cruelly beyond the reach of an outstretched arm.

If the match was at a weekend, Cricket Man took elaborate care to ensure that his wine rack was brimming with good red wine and that his fridge had cheese and ham and pâté. Kids were banished into more patient care, bribed with promises of trips to *The Little Princess*.

All that is now over. Cricket Man will mull and contemplate for a few more days, bemoan the fate of English cricket, bay for Illingworth's blood and say: "My! Haven't the Sri Lankans been luminous!" But there will be no escape from a truth. The World Cup is over. The world is over. *Six* transit gloria mundi.

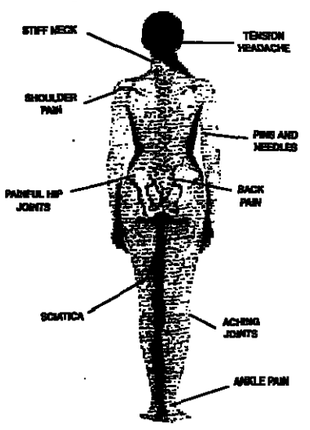
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Cabinets do well to toe the line

Peter Riddell says Euro-sceptics need collective responsibility

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The Government has landed itself in yet another European mess over a referendum on a single currency. Ministers have been panicked by exaggerated fears of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party into taking a view now, while the rival factions are adopting perverse positions. The sceptics want a referendum and the suspension of Cabinet collective responsibility, while most pro-Europeans argue the opposite. But to stop sterling joining a single currency, the sceptics should be against a referendum and in favour of a single Cabinet line. By contrast, a referendum and an agreement for ministers to differ offers pro-Europeans the only realistic route into monetary union.

As Malcolm Rifkind admitted yesterday, collective responsibility will be a central issue in the Cabinet paper he is drafting on the referendum. This has been a core constitutional principle since Melbourne remarked more than 150 years ago, "By the bye, there is one thing we haven't agreed upon, which is, what are we to say? Is it to make our corn dearer, or cheaper, or to make the price steady? I don't care which: but we had better all tell the same story."

Joseph Chamberlain argued in favour of "absolute frankness in our private relations and full discussion of all matters of common interest . . . the decisions freely arrived at should be loyally supported and considered the decisions of the whole of the Government. Of course, there may be occasions to which the difference is of so vital a character that it is impossible for the minority to continue their support, and in this case the ministry breaks up or the minority member or members resigns" — as Chamberlain himself did twice.

Occasionally, prime ministers have allowed ministers to differ on conscience issues such as the death penalty and abortion, but this has not applied to central political questions, with two big exceptions. In January 1932, the National Government under Ramsay MacDonald announced it had agreed to differ on tariffs, to keep four free-trade ministers in the coalition. They did vote against the Government but resigned eight months later.

The other main example was in 1975, when Harold Wilson suspended collective responsibility during the referendum on Britain's membership of the EEC, in face of deep party divisions. Two years later, James Callaghan allowed ministers to vote against the Bill introducing direct elections to the European Assembly. Differences were publicly exposed in the Commons: the Cabinet divided 14 to 7 for staying in the EEC, with other ministers split 31 on each side and a majority of backbenchers against. A dip into Tony Benn's diaries or Roy Jenkins's memoirs shows the passions aroused as Cabinet ministers confronted each other in public, much to Wilson's fury.

Some current constitutional writers have welcomed these cases. Rodney Brazier writes in his *Constitutional Practice* that not only were "the 1975 and 1977 suspensions . . . undoubted successes for the Governments concerned — the two administrations held together, which is the main aim of the exercise — but also the issues before ministers and country were more fully aired and argued than otherwise would have been the case". It is hard to see what else Wilson could have done. The Labour pro-Europeans who had initially opposed the referendum later felt that the two-to-one backing for membership isolated their left-wing opponents (at least until after the 1979 election).

That is the intriguing parallel for the Tory pro-Europeans now. If, after the next election, a Tory government moved in favour of a single currency, divisions among ministers and the parliamentary party might be similar to Labour's in 1975. So the only way that a pro-joining Cabinet majority could prevail without splitting the party apart, as in 1846 over the repeal of the Corn Laws, would be through a referendum and a temporary "agreement to differ". That is why some cannier sceptics such as Michael Portillo have been wary of a referendum. Their interests would be better served by retaining collective responsibility. Then a hard core of half-a-dozen sceptics could block joining a single currency by threatening to resign as a group.

> It is hard to see how any dissenting ministers could stay in the Cabinet

But such open divisions have long-term costs. As Lord Jenkins of Hillhead has written, things were never quite the same for Labour after 1975, as tribal party loyalties were loosened. These events contributed to the SDP breakaway of 1981. Vernon Bogdanor argues in his new book *Politics and the Constitution* that "in the long run . . . far from preserving traditional party alignments, the referendum may have helped to undermine them".

Moreover, while full discussion of options *before* a decision is reached may be welcomed as candid, open government, an agreement to differ *afterwards* reveals a basic weakness in any administration. There is a difference between having a referendum on a vital issue which cuts across party lines and the Cabinet itself not having an agreed view. Unlike the 1975 referendum, which largely ratified the status quo, a decision on a single currency would initiate a series of far-reaching changes. It is hard to see how publicly dissenting ministers could remain in the Cabinet.

Tony Blair has said that all members of his Cabinet would have to stick to the agreed policy during a referendum. Many senior ministers agree. But if the present Cabinet decides to allow differences, — and it would be inviting trouble to say so now — its whole credibility as a Government would be undermined. It is not only Kenneth Clarke's future that is at stake; the future of John Major's Cabinet is too.

When the unspeakable killing happens, politicians and media should be brief or keep silent

Matthew Parris



A weekend in Derbyshire is a tonic to such as I, who, hearing only politicians, seeing only national television and reading only newspapers, and finding consensus between all of them about the public mood, begin to suppose I that know the public mood.

I thought I was alone. I thought I was being cynical and crabby. I thought my feelings of rising embarrassment and finally disgust as politicians wade into the sea of tears surrounding Dunblane, then add to them, might find no echo. Mercifully, my own paper has been among the more restrained, but still my disquiet grew at a press of which elements have done nothing for six days but find new angles on Dunblane, new opinions on Dunblane, wring their hands about Dunblane, feed off each other's stories from Dunblane, and wallow in the grief of Dunblane. I thought that reaction might be eccentric.

Perhaps this is what readers and viewers wanted? What in modern Britain seems appropriate to the circumstance? Was I wrong to call it mawkish — or wrong, rather, to accord the word any but a private meaning? Had this looked mawkish to other people in Britain?

Yes it has. Of the score or so I've asked in Derbyshire, in many walks of life, almost all have thought the media coverage since Dunblane overheated, tasteless and relentless to the point of vexation.

For me, vexation began at Prime Minister's Questions last Thursday. The House had already had an opportunity to register its shock the previous day, when Miss Boothroyd had sensibly asked for a single intervention on behalf of each party. A small number of short and dignified expressions of sympathy and horror followed.

It would have been better to leave it at that. But the following day MPs returned to the subject. The occasion was, frankly and in my personal view, little short of theatrical.

I do not doubt their sincerity, but we can succumb to our emotions or we can control them, and I would on the whole prefer those who may command us in peace or war to control them. I could completely understand the feelings of those who spoke, but public men and women who find themselves close to tears in the legislature should not forget that there exists the option of saying little or not speaking at all. Jim Wallace, for the Liberal Democrats, was brief, correct but slightly formal. Again a personal view, but after that I would follow Mr Wallace anywhere. I absolutely did not form the view that those who spoke most feelingly had the finest feelings.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me," said Ian Paisley, quoting Christ. Yet again a personal view, but my mind moved to another piece of scripture: "By their fruits ye shall know them."

And now everybody is travelling to Dunblane. Why? Is this really what the people there need? The thing takes on a sort of momentum, of course, because once a couple of public figures have made the journey, other public figures suppose they may be judged unsympathetic unless they go too. Monarchs did not use to fly to the scenes of terrible tragedies, but now they must. You can imagine the fuss in the tabloid newspapers if the Queen declined to go.

And what was the result? Hordes of camera crews and reporters invading the city. Why not wait a few months and go when the world has begun to forget?

In recent days it has become almost obligatory to remark that grief expressed is a healing force, helping others to bear up. Is this really always true? A simple expression of condolence is always comforting, even from strangers, but is a sort of national wallowing, accompanied by hugely dramatised visits, really kind to Dunblane?

It has become obligatory too, to remark that expressing — even celebrating — our sympathetic feelings helps us to focus on what practical assistance we can give, or what reforms we can make. I question that. Tears do not mean action. I cry regularly in the cinema. Tears can become a substitute for action.

Let me repeat: I accuse nobody of insincerity; "accuse" nobody of anything. But we are not immune in the British media to a kind of lachrymose fit: a self-induced frenzy sometimes of horror, sometimes of mawkishness, and sometimes a distasteful mixture of both. After these fits we emerge drained but unpurged, and, all too often, sadly unimproved.

Tories but not conservatives

The party may draw on several traditions, but appeasement should not be one of them



William Rees-Mogg

Last Monday I was voting in the House of Lords for Lady Young's amendment to the Lord Chancellor's divorce Bill. I try to attend debates on moral issues. Hers was a very modest amendment, itself a compromise. In cases where there were children or where one partner objected, the Lord Chancellor's "one year, no fault" divorce proposal would be extended to a waiting period of 18 months. Even that the Lord Chancellor would not accept. As I went through the lobby I found myself immediately behind Lord Tebbit: I commented to him that we seemed always to vote in the same lobby, and were always beaten. Last week we lost again, by 109 to 157, despite the support of 60 Conservative peers, and of crossbenchers such as the eminent judge Lord Ackner, the retired Chief Rabbi Lord Jakobovits, and the Bishop of Ripon.

We were outvoted by the usual moral majority in the House of Lords, a coalition of permissives and placepersons. It included Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, who has voted for every measure to undermine the family for 40 years, and Earl Russell, who is a hereditary progressive. It included such placepersons as the noisy Baroness Trumpington and Viscount Cranborne, the Lord Privy Seal. It also included, inevitably, Lord Habgood, the recently retired Archbishop of York, who can be relied on to vote for the progressive ticket.

After eight years in the House of Lords, I have no great objection to Tony Blair's proposal to abolish the hereditary peers; my only regret is that he did not propose to abolish the life peers first. Any unelected House of Lords has become quite absurd. Life peers are rather worse than the hereditary, since we consist so largely of retired politicians, still often pursuing the fashionable ideas of the 1960s. There is nothing remotely democratic about a legislature stuffed with the nominees of retired or deceased prime ministers.

I voted for Lady Young's amendment, having acquired my right to do so because I was recommended for a peerage by Margaret Thatcher; Lord Clifford of Chudleigh had the right to vote for it because his ancestor was a member of Charles II's cabal. His title is no less or more democratic than mine, and its provenance is certainly of greater historical interest.

The redeeming virtue of the House of Lords is that one can sit on the crossbenches, and does not have to take any party whip. I find myself usually voting with the real conservatives, including Lord Tebbit and sometimes Lady Thatcher herself. The trouble is that we can find ourselves voting against what is commonly referred to as a Conservative Government. If only it were.

The divorce Bill is based on the principle of one year, no fault, which makes marriage a contract of minimal commitment. Britain has about the worst divorce rate (that is, the highest) in Europe, eight times that of Italy. The Lord Chancellor's Bill does not counterattack this high-divorce culture, which has been so disastrous for family stability and for hundreds of thousands of children. He has appeased the divorce lobby. Appeasement is characteristic of this administration, as it was of Neville Chamberlain's. The Lord Chancellor himself, though amiable, does not seem to be a man of any conservative principles; he is a rather gullible Scottish lawyer, too much impressed by official advice.

The principles of British conservatism are derived from our national history. They draw on different traditions, on John Locke's doctrines of liberty and property, on the institutionalism of Edmund Burke, on the free-market theory of Adam Smith, and on the political careers of Pitt, Peel, Churchill and Thatcher. There is a strong commitment to democracy, and the recognition that the open society depends on strong institutions. These need to be reformed, but they also need to be preserved. There is no majority for this philosophy of conservatism in the present House of Lords, nor, so far as one can tell, in the present Cabinet.

I have been much struck by the example of the London hospitals. Britain is extremely short of hospital beds: we have half the European average — only Spain has fewer. We are still very fortunate in having a number of historic hospitals in London, traditional centres of medical excellence. St Bartholomew's Hospital is the world's premier hospital, founded a century before Parliament itself. Patients are dying on trolleys in the corridors of the London hospitals, but the Department of Health is ploughing ahead with closing Bart's, on the basis of obsolete and manifestly unreliable estimates. It is a grotesque and inhuman blunder.

Closing Bart's seems to be imposed by the ill-informed but highly manipulative health service bureaucracy. The Secretary of State, Stephen Dorrell, is no more a conservative than the Lord Chancellor; he seems to be a pale-faced frontman for his civil servants in this matter.

The worst example of the Government's lack of principle has been the development of European policy. This Government, under John Major, signed the Maastricht treaty and rammed its provisions through both Houses of Parliament; using the whips and relying on the pliable placepersons, they pushed it through the House of Lords without a referendum. Those peers who voted against the Maastricht referendum thoroughly deserve to be abolished, because so many of them knew it was wrong to do so. Now the Foreign Secretary has published a position paper on European policy which makes nonsense of all that has gone before. If these really were the Government's objectives, it should never have signed Maastricht.

Nearly five years after Maastricht, the Government has still not decided whether it wants to join the single currency or whether it should have a referendum if it does. From a conservative point of view, the single currency would destroy the pound, with all the loss of national independence that implies. Even more fatally, it would bring to an end the control of the money power by the House of Commons, which is the core mechanism of British democracy. Sovereignty would be gone, democracy gone, at one blow. It would take the money power away from the House of Commons and give it to unelected and irremoveable European banker-bureaucrats.

Now Kenneth Clarke's "friends" say he will resign if the Cabinet decides to have a referendum, even on the narrower currency issue. Such a referendum would not replace the one on Maastricht which John Major refused. Yet if the Prime Minister is to remain in office, he cannot be dictated to by his Chancellor. Like the Lord Chancellor or Stephen Dorrell, Kenneth Clarke is not a conservative at all. He has never even pretended to be. His true political position is approximately that of the hyphen between Liberal and Democrat. It is sometimes said that the Conservative Party has to accept people like Kenneth Clarke if it is to be a broad church. Even a broad church does not need atheist bishops.

Malcolm Rifkind's White Paper has been accepted with relief by the milder Euro-sceptics, but I fear they have missed the point. In the years since John Major became Prime Minister, he has often previously said that he is opposed to the creation of a European federal superstate. Yet in his time the Euro-federalists have won every match. There was not only the federalist Treaty of Maastricht, where John Major sold the pass, but also the absurd incident when he blackballed the Belgian Jean-Luc Dehaene and meekly accepted the equally Euro-federalist Luxembourger Jacques Santer.

The White Paper depends on trust. People need to believe that this Government will fight for the positions it has taken up. Such a belief cannot be justified. The Government's record is one of continuous retreat; Britain has been repeatedly outmanoeuvred by the Euro-federalist forces, by the Commission, by the European Court and by Helmut Kohl himself. If John Major were a de Gaulle, an Adenauer, a Churchill, or a Thatcher, it might be possible to trust him to stand up for British interests, for our democracy and independence. But he is not that kind of person at all. He is the man of Maastricht; he has never faced down the Euro-fanaticism of Kenneth Clarke. On Europe, the Government's record speaks far louder than its White Paper.

I do not think that conservatism is dead. The set of ideas seems so natural to mankind that it can never disappear. It is natural to want liberty, to want democracy, to want independence. It is natural to feel an attachment to one's own country, and to one's country's institutions. It is natural to want to build one's own life, to develop one's own property as well as one's own career. It is natural to care for one's family and one's children. It is right to believe in the faith of one's own conviction. These truths are self-evident. What is sad is that, in Britain, one cannot trust the Conservative Party to follow this conservative political philosophy, or indeed any consistent political philosophy at all.

Duke of hazard

WHILE the Prince of Wales recently decided to quit the cockpit after an incident in which the plane he was flying slid off the runway in the Hebrides, his father is going for increasingly bold aeronautical adventures. The Duke of Edinburgh has raised half a million dollars for charity by flying himself across the Atlantic to a fundraising dinner.



The Duke in harness

His Royal Highness astonished Capitol Hill powerbrokers, and emptied their pockets for his Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme, by taking the controls of a BAe 146 of the Queen's Flight as it crossed the Atlantic, and landing at Washington's National airport for a whistle-stop visit last week.

Guests were agog as the Duke — at 74, a veteran aviator — calmly told them how he plotted the course via Iceland and Labrador and then hugged the coast to Washington. His tales of derring-do at the Corcoran Gallery dinner scooped him $300,000, and he picked up $200,000 more at fancy lunches, including one hosted by Michael and Arianna Huffington.

An achievement of this kind, however, is a tribute to the Duke's fitness: he is required by the Civil Aviation Authority to pass a rigorous medical every six months. But there has been the odd tricky moment. Some years ago he is understood to have been involved in a near-miss when he flew too low at Heathrow, and he once landed with a bump, with the Queen on board, in Australia.

DIARY

● *Mark Thomas, the comedian who sought William Waldegrave's help in exporting to Iraq a tank refurbished as an ice-cream van, now plans to bet the entire £10,000 budget for the last programme in his TV series on a horse. If he wins, the show will go ahead and he will throw parties in pubs across the country. If he loses, he and the crew will do the show for free from his front room.*

Gone down

COULD it be the lowest ever election turnout? The death of a councillor in Oxford's central ward means a by-election next month. Polling day will be during the university vacation, even though 85 per cent of the electorate are students.

The remaining 15 per cent have a limited choice of candidates. Labour missed the deadline for nominations and the Tories struggled to find a candidate. Eventually they came up with a student who recently stood in student union elections — for new Labour.

Will power

I TRUST that when Will Carling hobbled up the steps at Twickenham to receive the Millennium Trophy on Saturday he and Prince Edward kept their jolly little chat away from family business. But Carling was not allowed to forget his relationship with the Princess of Wales at the dinner at the London Hilton which followed the victory over Ireland, his last game as England captain.

The tributes flowed. "He has been an outstanding captain of England for a number of years," said Niall Hogan, Ireland's captain and a doctor with a neat line in *double entendres*. "He has performed royally."

● *Woody Allen, who had been due to play a concert at La Fenice in Venice before it burnt down, has not been offended by threats from the magistrate investigating the fire to jail him for trespass after he entered the ruined opera house to see the damage. Currently posing as a jobbing clarinettist on a European tour, he is planning a film set partially in Venice, and wants to donate the proceeds to rebuilding the opera house.*



"Humpty-Dumpty's my best offer, Mr Bruno"

Hawk-eye

THE Queen's ability to keep sailing on against the sea of troubles pounding her family is explained by the Duke of Wellington. He says she finds strength from her love of the countryside and her dogs; and he reports on the keenness of the royal eyes.

"I know of no one who gets more fun out of handling her labradors in the field. In Scotland, for example, she will watch a drive and go for hundreds of yards to pick up a solitary grouse, which only she has seen drop a long way behind the line of butts. She invariably returns triumphantly holding a bird," he writes in *The Field* next month.

Party piece

THE ACTRESS Dorothy Tutin has kept her next project in the family. She and her husband Derek Waring are playing a married couple in a Radio 4 production of Somerset Maugham's *Before the Party*.



Tutin: family show

Their daughter in the play is to be played by their real-life daughter, Amanda Waring.

"Dorothy and I were not that concerned about our own performances," explains Derek. "We were more concerned about Amanda, because it was her first broadcast play. We were both so pleased afterwards and saying to each other, 'Well, you were rubbish but Amanda was great.'"

P·H·S

THE LEGLESS BEAR

Russians are only beginning to feel pain at what they have lost

Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of Russia's Communist Party who is well ahead of Boris Yeltsin in opinion polls, unveiled his manifesto for June's presidential elections yesterday to chants of "Soviet Union! Soviet Union!" Mr Zyuganov, an unrepentant admirer of Stalin, won an ovation with his pledge to cancel treaties which "harm" Russian interests. Last Friday, with the support of Vladimir Zhirinovsky's ultra-nationalists, his Communist-led coalition of "popular-patriotic forces" resoundingly won a vote in the Duma that declared "null and void" the 1991 agreement, engineered by Mr Yeltsin, to dissolve the Soviet Union and create the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Mr Yeltsin angrily denounced the Duma resolution as a "scandalous" and unprincipled piece of political theatre with no legal force. But this is theatre with a ready audience, as every Russian politician knows. Mr Yeltsin argues that rebuilding the Soviet Union is unrealistic and that attempts to do so "would bring great harm to Russia". Even if no coercion were involved — and it would be — he is right: the economic costs of rebuilding the empire would cripple Russia's economy, just when an end is finally in sight to the worst hardships that accompanied reform. But even Mr Yeltsin, conscious of popular bitterness at Russia's diminished global status, was careful to add that the vote would, by upsetting Russia's neighbours, set back the "reintegration" of the CIS, which he claimed to be well under way.

To the discomfort of the West and of Russia's neighbours, "reintegration" will be a dominant theme of this campaign. It is code not only for restoring Russia's superpower status, but for a return to old certainties and a feeling of national security. Russians, a Western diplomat comments, remind him of Douglas Bader, the heroic wartime pilot who lost both legs in combat: five years after the break-up of the Soviet Union, they are just beginning to feel the pain of the amputation. Nostalgia for lost empire combines with rising hostility to Western nations, which are widely if unfairly blamed for the huge gaps in wealth in Russia's primitive, crime-ridden version of the market economy. The conspiracy theory hawked by both Communists and nationalists, that the West engineered the Soviet Union's collapse in order to weaken Russia, packs a powerful electoral punch.

Mr Zyuganov, who has a third of the vote firmly in his pocket, will win the first round. His speeches and writings hardly bear out Western theories that he will reach for the centre in search of victory. He praises China for combining economic reforms with communist orthodoxy; he is at best ambiguous about private ownership; he has likened the IMF to Nazi gauleiters in occupied Soviet territory; and, while he says no force will be used, he clearly hopes to outflank Mr Zhirinovsky by appealing to the irredentist vote.

Mr Yeltsin, when sober and even when legless in his own inimitable way, is a formidable grassroots campaigner; but the odds against his winning a second term are currently longer than those against John Major. He could be hard-pressed even to beat Mr Zhirinovsky, who is heavily backed by organised crime, for the critical second place that would carry him through to the final round. To keep the Communists out, he might even be tempted to cut a tactical deal with Mr Zhirinovsky — the price of which would be a more aggressively expansionist foreign policy. Western politicians are finding that the more they lecture Moscow on Russia's duty to respect the sovereignty of the CIS republics, the more brusquely they are publicly told that Russia's "near abroad" is none of their business. Privately, they are told not to play into Mr Zyuganov's hands. They cannot be certain that this is a passing phase. The West's goal is a democratic, responsible Russia and Mr Yeltsin may still be the least bad choice; but this election looks less and less like a straight contest between democratic reformers and authoritarians. To beat his foes, Mr Yeltsin may resort to stealing some of their offensive armour.

BLAIR UNBOUND

Labour should abandon the Shadow Cabinet elections

The Prime Minister's most precious power is deciding when to hold elections. It is one of the few things for which Tony Blair must envy John Major. Mr Blair is as anxious to see an early general election as he is determined never to see another Shadow Cabinet poll. It is paradoxical that a party committed to democratic accountability and critical of the arbitrary power of the executive should be planning to abandon the main electoral check on the freedom of the leader. But important though party democracy is, the principle of choosing the Cabinet by annual popularity poll is flawed. On the threshold of a general election, it appears irresponsible.

The Labour leadership is considering whether to abandon, or advance, this year's Shadow Cabinet elections. There is backbench pressure to hold a poll. Traditionalist members of the Parliamentary Labour Party want to assert that there are limits on the leader's authority and to punish Harriet Harman for choosing a selective school for her son. Many on the Left are also keen to strengthen the claim of independent frontbenchers such as Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, for a place in a future Labour Cabinet. One of Mr Davies's supporters, the MP for Newport West, Paul Flynn, has argued for elections in July, safely this side of a possible autumn election.

It would be altogether better for Mr Blair not to hold any election at all. Choosing the future Cabinet by holding a beauty contest for backbenchers is wasteful of Shadow Ministers' energies and inappropriate for a party serious about the business of government. The autumnal manoeuvrings in the dark corridors of Westminster, where favours are traded, egos stroked and regional blocs bartered, places a premium on clubbable mediocrity rather than dedicated talent. Radical thinking on, say, the constitution or trade unions is inhibited for fear of offending vested Labour movement interests. Moreover, Shadow Ministers waste time buttering up colleagues which they should spend mastering their briefs and harrying the Government.

In consequence figures such as David Clark, Tom Clarke and Joan Lestor are elected as representatives of northeastern, Scottish or female caucuses in preference to MPs such as Brian Wilson, Alistair Darling and Alun Michael who are more of a match for ministers. It will be easier for Labour to convince the country it will govern wisely if it is seen to place fitness for the task above propitiating sectional party interests. A Shadow Cabinet of 18 elected members from which a Labour Prime Minister must draw his own Cabinet is a piece of Bennite baggage more suited to running a student union than to governing the United Kingdom.

Not only will Labour's general election attack be blunted if its team is unsettled by Shadow Cabinet elections; the careful preparation for power which Mr Blair has instituted would be disrupted. The Labour leader and the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, have held discussions between civil servants and frontbenchers to ensure an easy transfer of power, should Labour win. This delicate process should not be disturbed to appease a restless faction. Mr Blair should tell his backbenchers that the games an Opposition plays must now give way to the disciplined work of an aspiring government.

THE GOLDEN SQUARE MEAL

High-flyers may be better employed as chefs than bankers

Cookery is the third oldest profession, far older than banking. So our report that bankers are giving up bonuses to train as chefs is a triumph of tribal experience over hope (slim) of becoming a master of the universe.

Finance is the science of managing resources for the advantage of the manager. But cookery is the art of managing resources for the advantage of the consumer. So gastronomy may be improved by these recruits, conventionally described as high-flyers. They have reversed the proverb by getting *into* the kitchen when they cannot stand the heat of the trading floor. But City slang suggests that this jump from the fire into the frying-pan will not improve kitchen language.

Raymond: Pass me the Mrs Beeton (wheaten) flour, please. My Brothers Roux is too thin. And I want to be the biggest spotted dick in the hot stock exchange. Tracey: And I want to be the honorary spotted dick. Cooking is more fulfilling than dealing in futures. And if we make it to *à la carte*, we shall be glamorous names, unlike those at Lloyd's. But lift up your apron and tell me what is wrong with this Brillat-Savarin (navarin).

Raymond: It needs a bit more Nick Leesoning (seasoning). How many cloves of garlic? Tracey: I Jack and Jilled (filled) it with a Michael Jackson (under 10, ie, very small). Raymond: You should be thinking more of an Archer (think of a number, then double it). Garlic does what the old school tie did for spoons (silver-spoons, ie, public schoolboys). It adds flavour to an otherwise insipid dish. But how can I to stop my spaghetti tangling into lumps like the screen after a hard day with the virtual reality of numbers?

Tracey: You cannot nerdle it like Nick Leeson, the sous chef for fricasseeing figures. But you could punt and try a light rinse with conditioning cream, followed by a quick once-over with a blow-dryer. Now spaghetti is well offered (unpopular) and yours (you can have it). My Raymond Blanc spot is soup. Mine has come out so thick that when I stir it, the room goes round, as with some of those Lloyd's syndicates. Can anyone lend me a soup knife?

Raymond: I get a lump in my throat when I think of your soup. In fact, I get a lump in my throat when I eat your soup. We may not yet be Ayrton Senna (ten-star) or even a handful (five-star) chefs. But our new art adds more to the sum of human happiness than our old trade. Outsiders hate the City high-flyers in red braces and Porsches because they cannot understand what they do and think they get paid too much. But everybody loves a chef. To cook and serve a three-course meal takes quite as skilful management as fixing a Spaniard (one deal done = Don Juan). We take the grease and burns for society, and wash up afterwards. And the punters are at ease with us because we satisfy their atavistic instincts. And secretly they think that they (or at any rate their mothers) could cook better themselves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Security of schools an urgent task

From Mr Alan Millard

Sir, It comes as no surprise that head teachers should be calling on the Government to provide cash for inexpensive and practical measures to improve school security (report, March 14). Surely their request should be treated as a matter of urgency when so many of our school buildings stand as sorry monuments to years of under-investment.

On a recent visit to the school where I first taught more than thirty years ago, I was saddened to see that the buildings were just as I remembered them. Nothing had changed, in spite of the many improvements and modernisations which have, over the same period, transformed our town centres, leisure developments and commercial properties.

The simple idea, for example, of fitting all school entrances with doors which open only outwards cries out to be highlighted. Cinemas have had such doors for years; why not schools?

It can only be hoped that the head teachers' request will receive the support it deserves and that the possibility of any future tragedy will be minimised.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MILLARD,
8 Medina Court,
Marine Parade West,
Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.
March 14.

Business rates

From Mr Stephen Kingsley

Sir, I occupy a small suite of offices in the City of London for which I have just received a rates bill. My liability, based on the rateable value, is £7,200 but I must also pay a "transitional adjustment" of £21,400, as the reduction in rates following the 1995 revaluation is being phased in over five years. My total bill is thus £28,600.

The Corporation of London anticipates collecting £631 million in council tax and non-domestic rates this year. It expects to spend £101 million in the same period. There will be a surplus, paid to the Government for use elsewhere, of £530 million. Assuming that my fourfold liability is typical, the amount paid by businesses in the City of London in transitional adjustments is some £472 million.

My rate bill is one of the larger overheads of my business, rather more than I pay in rent. If I did not have to pay the transitional adjustment I could invest substantially more in expanding the business. If £472 million is being "overpaid" in the City of London alone, how much potential investment is being lost elsewhere?

The Prime Minister has recently said that he wishes to help small businesses who suffer from late payment of bills by their customers [report, Business, March 12: letters, March 16]. I could allow my clients 12 months' credit for the same cost as my additional rate liability.

A better way to help would be to remove the transitional adjustment in respect of non-domestic rates but I doubt this will happen. It is one thing for the Government to urge the private sector to part with money promptly and quite another for it to forgo revenue itself by reducing rate liability to the correct level.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN KINGSLEY
Stephen Kingsley (solicitors),
Royex House,
Aldermanbury Square, EC2.
March 13.

Ireland's long memory

From Father John Buckley

Sir, Your leader, "The IRA's corner" (March 12), shows a limited insight into the republican psyche. The people who favour the option of physical force are the children of Bloody Sunday.

They despise the British Army and distrust the RUC. They are vividly conscious of seventy years of ferocious discrimination and even oppression. They regard themselves as the protectors of the nationalist tradition and population. For such people decommissioning is not on.

The IRA think in centuries. They ask what is 25 years as compared with 700. To them there is no "Ulster problem", there is only the goal of a united Ireland. Sadly, I am not being "naive" but realistic.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BUCKLEY,
The Presbytery,
Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham,
Southampton, Hampshire.
March 13.

Gays in Armed Forces

From Mrs Ena Wogin

Sir, During the Second World War I worked as a nursing sister in military hospitals. Among the staff there were a few known lesbians [letters, March 7, 12, 13].

Who cared? We all cared — for the patients. Nothing else mattered.

Yours faithfully,
ENA WOGIN,
36 Bowen Court,
The Drive, Hove, East Sussex.
March 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Merits of proposals on family law

From Lord Carr of Hadley and Lord Elton

Sir, We are dismayed by the content of Ralph Harris's article ("Divorced from his own party", March 13) on the Family Law Bill, recently passed by the House of Lords (report, March 12). We understand and respect the depth of opposition which some people feel about the Bill, but to stimulate opposition to it on false premises can only do more damage to the institution of marriage.

To take just two statements in the article:

First, that the Bill "can be fairly summarised as divorce on demand in a year". This is a grossly unfair summary. It ignores the immense improvement that this Bill makes by ensuring that the implications of any divorce for the children and for the finances of the family are addressed before the divorce is granted.

These may well not be settled in a year; indeed, faced with the harsh reality of the implications of a divorce, the parties may decide that a reconciliation is in everyone's best interests.

Contrast this with the present position, under which large numbers of divorces are obtained well within a year and before the arrangements for children and finances have been agreed; and where the first step is often not a reflection on the implications of a divorce but allegations of fault, which can only serve to drive the parties further away from a possible reconciliation.

The second statement is that "adultery or desertion will no longer be grounds for a divorce petition". This is chop logic at its worst. Adultery and desertion will remain most powerful arguments demonstrating the breakdown of a marriage.

The effect of the Bill will be to *lengthen* the period before which many people can obtain a divorce. Ask anyone who wants to jump from one marriage to another whether they would like to proceed under the present system or that proposed under the Bill.

Under the current system fault, such as adultery, provides a quick way out of marriage — a curious fact which those opposing the Bill seem to ignore.

Yours faithfully,
CARR of HADLEY,
ELTON,
House of Lords.
March 14.

From the Bishop of Worcester

Sir, The article by Ralph Harris requires a response if a comprehensive debate on this subject is to be maintained.

It is very damaging that the Bill should ever have been called the "no-fault divorce Bill". We should resolutely have stuck to "the Family Law Bill". It is the first Bill initiated by government to put marriage and the family at the centre. It seeks to boost marriage and the family by better preparation before and better assistance during marriage. It seeks to save savable marriages and is backed by all the services like Relate, Catholic Marriage Care, the Children's Society, the Family Solicitors' Association and many more. In the settlement faults will indeed be taken into account and no divorce will be granted until the settlement is seen to be just and satisfactory.

All agree that the present divorce legislation is totally unsatisfactory. The situation nearly adds up to divorce through the post. The use of fault, as the Catholic bishops have said, has engendered deception, exaggeration and deceit. Certainly the Seventh Commandment forbids adultery but the Ninth Commandment forbids false witness.

It is a great pity that good people differ on this Bill. Yes, we must proclaim through our laws that marriage is the most solemn of commitments and the breakdown of the family causes lifelong hurt and public disorder. It is also a requirement of the New Testament that we immerse ourselves amongst those who have fallen by the way and produce laws which will heal and redeem an imperfect and much to be lamented situation. Was not Jesus criticised for spending time amongst those who had let the side down by failing to keep the law?

Finally, let it be said emphatically that the Churches and many other bodies in our nation must take seriously to heart the great dangers we are in by the breakdown of our smallest yet most important of institutions, namely the family. Acts of Parliament are important but there is also the need for good people to bestir themselves in the nation.

Yours faithfully,
†PHILIP WORCESTER,
The Bishop's House,
Hartlebury Castle,
Kidderminister, Worcestershire.
March 13.

Recycled glass

From Mr Stephen Pollock-Hill

Sir, Tony Kelly ("Why are Britons so bad at recycling?", Weekend, March 9) says that Britain comes bottom in Europe as regards the recycling of glass. This fact should be put into proper context.

Back in 1989 I was the British representative on the Comité Permanent de l'Industrie du Verre attending a meeting with the European Commission in Brussels, where British glass manufacturers were criticised for being so low down the European league of good glass recyclers.

This did not appear correct to us, so we carried out a study, including the volume of glass recycled by being returned to the filler — ie, milk bottles (then several million a day), beer bottles from tied pubs, and deposit-paid soft-drink bottles. We argued that it was more fuel-efficient to return on the same transport that delivers the bottle and goes back empty otherwise (milkfloats and brewery delivery lorries) than to collect, transport to the nearest glass-producer, sort out, crush and remanufacture another bottle.

Our total tonnage with the conventional recycled glass gave us a figure of over 64 per cent and put us straight to the top of the league. The German glass-producers said this was unfair and did not compare like with like — and it also displaced them from their coveted first place.

If "returnable glass packaging" is included with "recycled" we are now close to the top of the league. We recycle just over half a million tonnes of glass a year; but we re-use a further 100,000 tonnes of milk bottles, doing an average 12 trips, 25,000 tonnes of beer bottles lasting 30 trips and 15,000 tonnes of carbonated drinks surviving 25 trips on average.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN POLLOCK-HILL,
Chairman,
Nazeing Glassworks Ltd,
Broxbourne, Hertfordshire.

Publications' concern

From the Chief Executive of the Morning Star Co-operative Society

Sir, Your diarist ("Falling star", March 14) reported a circulation crisis for this newspaper. A conference in Manchester on March 30 will tackle not only the wider issue of distribution difficulties (letters, February 26; March 4) but also the concentration of media ownership in the hands of a few powerful individuals who control global media corporations.

The conference, and indeed the letter we sent to MPs, does not single out the *Morning Star*, which is but one title amongst many affected by the changes in the industry. This matter, which is of great public concern since it raises the question of the freedom of the press, has already been raised by many MPs on behalf of their constituents, especially newsagents.

Yours sincerely,
MARY ROSSER, Chief Executive,
Morning Star Co-operative Society,
1-3 Ardleigh Road, N1.
March 15.

Labour and the WI

From the Chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes

Sir, You reported (March 8) that the Labour Party was to announce "a programme of lunches and teas with the Women's Institute".

In fact the Labour Party will be holding open meetings in selected areas of the country, which will be open to members of all women's organisations to attend if they choose to do so. There is no programme planned specifically for the WI.

We are a democratic organisation independent of any political affiliation. We always welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns with all political parties at a national and local level, but we do not endorse the activities of any one party.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SOUTHEY,
Chairman,
National Federation of Women's Institutes,
104 New Kings Road, SW6.
March 8.

Cars in London

From Mr William D. Oliver

Sir, Marcus Binney's article on reclaiming London for pedestrians ("These beats are made for walking", March 13; also leading article, March 13; letters, March 15), must rank as the craziest idea I have heard for some time.

Roads were built, at enormous expense to their users, to provide a safe and even surface for transport which is the lifeblood of any city. The motoring public, who have the distinction of bearing the heaviest and most unfair tax burden of any sector of the community, have noticed uncomplainingly, the constant erosion of their road space in London. Needless to say, this is causing the ever increasing traffic jams with their consequent higher pollution levels.

I am of the opinion that the problem could be solved by (a) releasing the road space which has been steadily pilfered over the last 20 years, (b) spending at least half of the tax that motorists pay on improving the roads and (c) using the revenue from parking meters for the purpose it was originally intended, to provide off-street car parking in the city.

Incidentally, does anyone care what they do in Naples or Santiago de Compostela?

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM D. OLIVER,
63 Grosvenor Park Road,
Walthamstow, E17.

Treasure trove Bill 'must not fudge'

From Sir Nicholas Goodison, Chairman of the National Art Collections Fund

Sir, Alice Thomson's report, "Treasure trove Bill buries principle of 'finders keepers'" (later editions, March 9), drew welcome attention to the current inadequacies of the law of treasure trove. Sir Anthony Grant's Bill, which had its second reading in the House of Commons on March 9, would remove some of the present absurdities — such as the need to determine whether or not the treasure was buried deliberately — but it is only a partial solution. It does not address the fundamental need: to provide a proper mechanism of protection for all portable antiquities, together with an adequate system of recording finds.

The Department of National Heritage's discussion document, *Portable Antiquities*, tackles some but not all of the issues. More worryingly, it makes very clear that the Government's preferred option is for a voluntary code of practice, with no additional resources for the recording of finds. Yet the scale of the problem is immense.

Although we can never be sure how many finds go unreported, it is estimated that at least 400,000 objects of archaeological interest are discovered each year in England and Wales, many of them by metal detectorists, rather than archaeologists. The majority, probably, have little or no monetary value; their intrinsic worth lies in their historical significance. The Bill surely ought to embrace all portable antiquities, not just those containing precious metal.

As an organisation that is frequently called upon by museums to assist with purchases of antiquities, we are concerned that the present opportunity for reform should not be fudged. The Bill, and the discussion document, offer the first chance for 150 years to achieve progress in this vital area.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOODISON,
Chairman,
National Art Collections Fund,
Millais House,
7 Cromwell Place, SW7.
March 14.

Young Picasso

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, Without detracting from or denying the considerable talent and potential of the young painter Alexandra Nechita (report, March 13; letters, March 15), the real test is yet to come.

All important artists, in their early days, have had their mentors whose example they have avidly absorbed and assimilated and whom they often continue to respect and admire. This, tied in with a powerful visual awareness and, yes, an ability to draw, form a springboard for one's own ideas and techniques to develop.

Picasso had the genius to invent and to inaugurate movements in art which popular opinion may have preferred to stifle, in the same way that the Impressionists were initially derided because they dared to change direction.

I wish, as a painter, I had an ounce of Alexandra's ability and assurance and I shall follow her artistic development with much interest. But it would be wrong to mistake her for, or confuse her with Pablo Picasso just yet.

Unlike Janie Elston (letter, March 15) I do not subscribe to the notion of a "non-art world", nor do I give credibility to "popular theories". The first is synonymous with prejudiced indifference and smugness and the other seems, where art is concerned, to deal in outdated clichés.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PITTUCK,
Hillside Cottage,
62 Dunmow Road,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.
March 15.

Cost of monarchy

From Mr D. C. Ferris

Sir, What would happen to the royal palaces under a republic? (letter from Dr R. L. Sturch, March 14). Were a republic to arrive under the present Government, the palaces would be sold off at a trifling price to foreign companies of uncertain pedigree which would then make large profits by neglecting their upkeep while charging the public inflated prices to visit them.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. FERRIS,
62 Argyll Road, Exeter, Devon.
March 14.

Cover story

From Mr David B. Wood

Sir, Congratulations to the American chemical company, Upjohn, whose minoxidil drug can apparently encourage the growth of hair (Features, March 15).

An earlier American, whose snake-oil preparation signally failed to achieve the same result, is alleged to have transformed his fortunes by warning people not to apply it where the growth of hair would be undesirable.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID B. WOOD,
11 Mossborough Road,
Rainford,
St Helens, Lancashire.
March 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 16: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the Rugby Football Union Match between England and Ireland at Twickenham, Middlesex.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 16: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon attended Mass at Coventry Cathedral, Coventry, West Midlands.

The Duchess of Kent this evening attended a reception, concert and dinner in aid of St John's Hospice, given by Sir Georg Solti, the Landmark London Hotel, Marylebone Road, London NW1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 17: The Queen, accompanied by The Princess Royal, today visited Dunblane.

Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness subsequently visited Stirling Royal Infirmary.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 17: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning presented Shamrock to the Irish Guards at Chelsea Barracks on the occasion of St Patrick's Day.

The Lady Angela Oswald, Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bt., and Major Colin Burgess were in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend a reception at the Institution of Civil Engineers at 6.30 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Commonwealth Engineers' Council.

Wolfson History Prize 1995

The judges of the Wolfson History Prize 1995, Sir Keith Thomas, FBA, (chairman), Professor Averil Cameron, FBA, Professor Richard Evans, FBA, and Mr Kenneth Rose, have made the award to Professor H.C.G. Matthew, FBA, in recognition of his *Gladstone 1875-1898* (Oxford University Press), the culmination of his Gladstone studies over the years, which include *Gladstone 1809-1874* and his editorship of twelve volumes of *The Gladstone Diaries*.

Dinner

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Timothy Davies, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr Wynford Evans and Mr Gwilym Jones, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, last Friday evening. The guest speaker was the Right Hon Peter Lilley, Secretay of State, Department of Social Security. Mr Brian K. Thomas, Chairman, Mount Stuart Group Ltd, presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Grover Cleveland, 22nd American President 1885-89 and 24th President 1893-97, Caldwell, New Jersey, 1837; Stéphane Mallarmé, poet, Paris, 1842; Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, composer, Tikhvin, Russia, 1844; Rudolf Diesel, engineer, Paris, 1858; Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister 1937-40, Birmingham, 1869; Wilfred Owen, poet, Oswestry, 1893; Robert Donat, actor, Manchester, 1905.

DEATHS: Edward the Martyr, King of England 975-8, murdered at Corfe Castle, Dorset, 978; Fra Angelico, painter, Rome, 1455; Philip Massinger, dramatist, London, 1640; Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford, the "First Prime Minister" 1721-42, London, 1745; Laurence Sterne, writer, London, 1768; John Horne Tooke, politician and philologist, London, 1812; Marcelin Berthelot, chemist, Paris, 1907; George I, King of Greece 1863-1913, assassinated, Salonika, 1913; Eleuthérios Venizélos, Greek Prime Minister 1910-15, 1917, 1924 and 1928-30, Paris, 1936; Farouk I, King of Egypt 1936-52, Rome, 1965; Erich Fromm, physiologist, Locarno, Switzerland, 1980.

The Tolpuddle Martyrs were sentenced to transportation for forming a trade union, 1834.

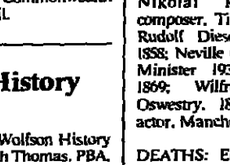
The Commune rising began in Paris, 1871.

Alexei Leonov, the Soviet cosmonaut, made the first walk in space from his craft *Voskhod 2*, 1965.

More than 30,000 tons of crude oil were disgorged when the *Torrey Canyon* was wrecked off Cornwall, 1967.

Nature notes

Kestrels are finding life easier, as field mice and field voles finish their underground winter stores of nuts and berries, and come to feed more often above ground. The kestrels hunt them by hovering against the wind 30 to 50ft up in the air, and dropping down swiftly to snatch them with their talons. The first summer migrants are arriving: sand martins from Africa feed over lakes and reservoirs, before returning to the sandpits and sandy cliff-faces where they will dig out their nest holes, while chiffchaffs from the Mediterranean catch early flies in the birches and willows. A few garden birds are beginning to build, often in bare bushes and hedges: song thrushes make large mud-lined nests, and long-tailed tits weave a domed nest of moss and cobwebs which they will decorate with lichen, and line with hundreds of feathers. The first lesser celandines are in flower: they are bright gold stars with anything from seven to 12 petals, and stand on separate stalks among beds of heart-shaped leaves. Seven-spot ladybirds are crawling over the bushes, but they will not begin to fly until the sunshine gets really warm. DJM



The chiffchaff

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy & Royal Marines

Captain: D Conley — Dolphin 2.8.96; R F Strange — Warrior as CO 6.9.96.

Commander: P M Egerton — Drake NBC 12.7.96; A R Forsyth — Nelson 24.5.96; P A Jellyman — Staff of FOSF 19.4.96; P D Kenward — Bristol 1.8.96; J A Lister — RAF High Wycombe 5.7.96; M F Prior — Staff of FOSF 30.8.96; M K Rothwell — Staff of FOSF 1.4.96.

Chaplain: D Barlow — Hasler 1.4.96; N J Kelly — Nelson 15.4.96; M Sharkey — Nelson 15.4.96.

Army

Colonel: A N Bellamy — To be Comd BATUS, 18.3.96; R S Jeffrey — To UK Sp Unit SHAPE, 20.3.96; S A Lane — To MOD, 18.3.96; J S K Swanston — To be Comd Med Log Dist, 27.2.96 (belated entry); A V Twiss — To be DA/MA Ankara, 19.3.96.

Lieutenant-Colonel: C Chapman PARA — To Staff Coll, 18.3.96; P M Gibson PARA — To MOD, 21.3.96; N C May REME — To MOD, 18.3.96; P T McCarthy, REME — To REME MRD, 20.3.96; J G Mullin RE — To MOD, 20.3.96; P D Raby RLC — To Staff Coll, 18.3.96; M R G Stockdale R SIGNALS — To HQ UKSC(G), 18.3.96; A T J Stone RLC — To MOD, 18.3.96.

Service dinners

Queen's Lancashire Regiment
The annual dinner of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment Volunteer Dinner Club was held on Saturday at Kimberley Barracks, Preston. Lieutenant-Colonel C.A. Hookey, Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, presided.

Royal Logistics Corps TA
Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Lady Victoria Leatham and Major-General M.S. White were the principal guests at a ladies dinner for the Honorary Colonels of The Royal Logistic Corps Territorial Army held on Saturday at the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham. Lieutenant-Colonel J.C. Miller presided.

Mr Hugh Clegg

A memorial meeting for Mr Hugh Armstrong Clegg, Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, was held on Saturday in the college hall. Mr Tony Atkinson, Warden, presided. Mr Pat Thompson, Emeritus Fellow of Wadham College, Lord McCarthy, Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College, Professor William Brown, Professor of Industrial Relations, Cambridge University, and Professor Max Hartwell, Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College, also spoke.

Jeremy J. Beadle

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Jeremy J. Beadle will be held in the Chapel of Oriel College, Oxford, at 2pm on Sunday, April 28, followed by a reception at the Oxford Union.

Schools news

Uppingham
Music Scholarships
Uppingham School has awarded Music Scholarships for entry at 13+ to the following:

George Corbett, Parkside Community College, Cambridge; Richard Austerberry, Ripon Cathedral Choir School; Nicholas Charlwood, St John's College School, Cambridge; Richard Farnsworth, Westminster Abbey Choir School; Henry Ceidi, Sevenoaks, Kent; Beaver, Blueprint Beern Skittles at Walton; Mrs W Miller, Wigtownshire, Scotland. Briard: Coemantika Bagera: Mr and Mrs S Carrioch, Sidlingdean, Sussex. Ballmastiff: ch Graecia Mercury: Mr A Rostorn, Manchester. Collie (rough): Chrisarion Cromwell: Mrs C Black, Stafford. Collie (smooth): ch Foxearth Flourish: Mr J Wilcox, Stafford. Dobermann: Kamjoval Krystal: Mr and Mrs M Wright, Silton, North Yorks. Eskimola mountain dog: Asterel Gwyderic: Mrs P Dean, Llanelli, Dyfed. German shepherd dog: Middross Xaver, Mr and Mrs Middleton, Dagenham, Essex. Giant Schnauzer: ch Jafrak Keep Talking: Mr and Mrs S Waring, Cheltenham, Glouc. Great Dane: ch Vanmore Hopiessly In Love: Mr L Morgan-Evans, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Havanese: Pines Douglas of Minices: Mrs M Inches, Cayside, Scotland. Hungarian Puli: Tyngell Dancing Queen: Mrs R O'Sullivan, Bagbrooke, Northants. Lancashire Heeler: Fourthyme Natural Girl: Mr and Mrs C Russell, Doncaster, South Yorks. Maremma sheepdog: ch Sonymer Kynos, Mr and Mrs W Latimer, Carlisle, Cumbria. Mastiff: ch Cedwalla Sweet Charity: Mr and Mrs D Chidwick, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Newfoundland: ch Pouch Coves Repeat after Me at Carazan, Mrs P Colgan, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Norwegian Buhund: ch Retnark Duffy, Mrs C Denham Horton, Nottingham. Old English sheepdog: ch Bobbington Lucin Lover, Mrs A Ullie, Carlisle, Cumbria. Pinscher: INAS Red Alert, Mr and Mrs R Holliday, Newcastle upon Tyne. Polish Lowland sheepdog: Antrosu Dobrany From Dornblue: Miss T Cousins, Swansea. Portuguese Waterdog: Glenwitin Cafezinho at Gemson, Mrs J Johns, Wisbech, Cambs. Pyrenean mountain dog: ch Laudley Damascas, Mr and Mrs C Bowker, Ambleside, Cumbria. Rottweiler: ch Schusztar Medusa: Mr and Mrs J Wander, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex. St Bernard: Abbotsbury Allanthus: Mr and Mrs T Goodwin, Thetford, Suffolk. Samoyed: Hurstbank Winter's Knight, Mrs Cox, Abingdon, Oxon. Shetland sheepdog: ch Myrtlebrewe Rosa Bleu: Miss J Beaden, Wigton, Cumbria. Siberian Husky: ch Azgard Vanir Dream: Mrs C Barry, Notts, Essex. Swedish Vallhund: ch Hursfield Hunk at Riddens: Mr and Mrs R Mathers, Bradford. Tibetan Mastiff: Chelsea Kusho, Mrs K Giles, Chiddingfold, Surrey. Welsh Corgi (Cardigan): ch Kilvewood Pie in the Sky, Mrs J Maidment, Blackmoor, Essex. Welsh Corgi (Pembroke): Pemcader Betty Boop: Mrs R Dover, Northampton.

Day four

Terrier and hound group
Fox terrier (wire): ch Travella Special Strike: Mrs S Browne-Cole, Bristol. Irish terrier: Tubereasa Fortune Teller: Mrs A Smith, Birmingham. Kerry Blue terrier: Kenoct Crystal Rainbow: Mr R Good, Cork, Irish Republic. Manchester terrier: Twisel Favour Returned: Mr and Mrs R Dunford, Barton on Humber, Humberside. Norwich terrier: ch Cleric Norse King With Belleville: Mrs C Thompson, Redford, Notts. Scottish terrier: ch Mason Paper Chase: Mr and Mrs I Gaskell, Rotherham, South Yorks. Sealyham terrier: Tonex Trigger Happy: Mrs S Rootes, Stockton on Tees, Worcs. Soft coated wheaten terrier: ch Steveyn Lovely Miss Chawdy: Mr S Howe, Coventry, Worcs. Welsh terrier: ch Saredon Ray Charles: Mr D Scawthorn, Cheadle, Staffs. Basset hound: ch Brackenacre Navan: Mr and Mrs J Nixon, Plymouth, Devon. Tyrol Trigger Happy: Mrs S Rootes, Stockton on Tees, Worcs. Bedlington terrier (miniature): Stanolly Swift Step: Mrs O Stoner, Chedle, Staffs. Bull Terrier (miniature): ch. Lizette Third Encounter: Mrs A Paterson, Edinburgh. Glen of Imaal terrier: Farni Crackling Rose: Mr O Preece, Leominster, Herefordshire. Harrier Jack Russell: Cassacre Drummer of Gripton: Mr & Mrs B Baker, Chessington, Surrey. Skye terrier: Reigenmaker's Ringleader: Mr & Mrs D Hadleigh, Cumbria. Staffordshire Bull terrier: Budview All Right Mate: Mr N Chapman, Dudley, West Mids. Basset Fauve de Bretheuse: Vanity V Gebrich's Hoejke of Houndsline: Mrs L Johnson, Chorleywood, Herts. Dachshund (miniature wire-haired): Drakeleel Toot Sweet: Mr J Horswell, Stockport. Elkhound: ch. Barlestone Crystal: Mr & Mrs B Nichols, Bagworth, Leicestershire. Rhodesian Ridgeback: ch Tukela Shona: Mrs C Joslyn, Canterbury, Kent. Whippet: ch. Mithrandir Panning for Gold: Mrs R Campbell, Glamorgan.

Airedale terrier: ch Jokyl This Is My Song: Miss G Coxall, Farnham, Surrey. Australian terrier: ch Sherex Shiraz: Mr P Eardley, Congleton, Cheshire. Bull terrier: ch Caliber Cabin Class: Mr and Mrs P Lambert, Shoeburyness, Essex. Cairn terrier: Kirkim Ludvic: Mr and Mrs R Elrick, Market Drayton, Shrops. Fox terrier (smooth): Mos Valley Helmsman of Jacspot: Mrs J Jacques, Sheffield. Lakeland terrier: Rayfos River Spirit: Mr and Mrs P Greenway, Newark, Notts. Norfolk terrier: ch Cracknor Call My Bluff: Miss M Matell, Ashford, Kent. West Highland white terrier: Vallenge Viking Mr and Mrs K Harris, Exeter, Devon. Afghan hound: ch Tejas Conquistidor: Mr R Bentley, Wigan, Lancs. Basenji: Homleys Sir Gustave: Mrs J Wilson Stringer, Mablethorpe, Lincs. Beagle: ch Dialynne Augustus: Miss M Spavin, Solihull. Bloodhound: ch Brighton's Myrtle of Chaselawn: Mr and Mrs D Richards, Heathfield, Sussex. Borzoi: ch Shotwood Striking Rubies: Mr R Duckworth, Devon. Dachshund (smooth haired): Hampdach Capuccino at Daxnuic: Mrs I Lashford, Fife. Deerhound: ch Kilbourne Ruby: Mr and Mrs M Peach, Kilburn, Derbyshire. Maremma Sheepdog: Fred Marion's Lass: Miss Cook, Alton, Hants. Basset Griffon Vendeen: ch Maquisard le Barbu: Miss L Millar, Sherbourne, Dorset. Pharaon Hound: ch Tarafin Khamudi: Miss F Niven, Dumfries, Saluki: ch Alcalibra Erianthe: Mrs D Copperthwaite, Andover, Hants. Border terrier: ch. Quadord Kardinal: Mrs V Furness, Bridgenorth, Shropshire. Dandie Dinmont terrier: Lodore Lancer: Mr A Curry, Selby, North Yorkshire. Deerhound: ch Kilbourne Ruby: Mr and Mrs M Peach, Kilburn, Derbyshire. Maremma Sheepdog: Fred Marion's Lass: Miss Cook, Alton, Hants. Basset Griffon Vendeen: ch Maquisard le Barbu: Miss L Millar, Sherbourne, Dorset. Pharaon Hound: ch Tarafin Khamudi: Miss F Niven, Dumfries.

OBITUARIES

ROSS HUNTER

Ross Hunter, Hollywood film producer, died on March 10 aged 79. He was born on May 6, 1916.





Ross Hunter, left, and above, Doris Day and Rock Hudson in *Pillow Talk*, 1959

IF ROSS HUNTER was regarded by most serious critics as a figure of fun, at least he had the classic consolation of being able to cry all the way to the bank. He also had the more elusive satisfaction of doing exactly what he wanted to do and of making the films he wanted to make, whatever anyone else might think of his choices.

He was, during the Fifties and Sixties, Hollywood's unchallenged king of kitsch. He made the most deliriously overdone, but unassailably successful, weepy movies of the era. With *Pillow Talk* (1959) he invented the "Doris Day comedy", and teamed the star with her most successful partner, Rock Hudson. Finally, with *Airport* (1970), he produced one of the most effective of all the disaster movies which came into their own in the early Seventies.

Ross Hunter (real name Martin Fuss) was born and brought up in Cleveland, Ohio; from the beginning his real ambition was to be an actor. After graduating from Western Reserve University, for a while he taught in high school, pursuing his acting ambitions in his spare time. But in 1943 he managed to attract the attention of an agent, and was signed up for Hollywood by Columbia Pictures.

He made his debut as the romantic lead in *Louisiana Hayride* (1944), following this with similar roles in a number of other B-movies in the 1940s, such as *A Guy, a Girl and a Pal, Hit the Hay* and *Sweetheart of Sigma Chi*. At the end of three years his contract was not renewed, but he remained in Los Angeles, teaching again and producing and directing in the local fringe theatres.

As a result of this he was hired to coach film actors in their lines, and in 1951 was put under contract as an associate producer at Universal. Universal at this time was definitely a second-league studio, churning out routine products according to the standard models of the moment, sometimes starring new discoveries on their way upwards, more often with stars already slightly past their sell-by date who had been let go by the majors.

Hunter quite happily fitted in with this pattern, since it corresponded exactly to the sort of film he himself wanted to see. A movie buff from early childhood, he was well up on Hollywood history, and adored many of the older stars, while he could see the value of those who were not to his personal taste. His first film as a full producer, *Take Me to Town* (1953), starred Anne Sheridan; his second, *All I Desire*, made in the same year, starred Barbara Stanwyck. Both were directed by Douglas Sirk, a German émigré with a particular touch with glossy tear-jerkers. Hunter and Sirk were to work together again on several of Hunter's biggest successes.

Immediately, though, they collaborated, improbably, on a western, *Taza Son of Cochise* (1954), which helped to launch its young star Rock Hudson into superstar orbit. A different side of Hudson's talents was shown in the next film the Hunter/Sirk team made, *Magnificent Obsession*, a remake of the old melodrama about a playboy doctor (Hudson) who accidentally blinds a beautiful woman (Jane Wyman) and then reforms and personally operates to restore her sight. The teaming was repeated in *All That Heaven Allows* (1956), in which Wyman is a society widow who outrages conventional opinion by marrying Hudson, her gardener. Scoffers might say that this was hardly the most urgent issue around in 1956, but the public dutifully sniffled through it.

Clearly Hunter had his finger on the pulse of popular taste, and had no qualms about going well over the top in everything he did. The funeral of Lana Turner's black maid in *Imitation of Life* (1959), the next teaming of Hunter and Sirk, was vastly bigger and more extravagant than in any of the previous versions, because Hunter reasoned that that was what everyone remembered from before. And he had no truck with the normal Hollywood procedure of ignoring those who had been stars and were stars no more.

He believed that it came from producers' fear of confronting their own mortality, and that it was missing out on a whole nostalgia audience to use character actors to play roles like Doris Day's sophisticated aunt in *Midnight Lace* (1960) or Lana Turner's Chinese maid in *Portrait in Black* (1960) if you had Myrna Loy or Anna May Wong ready and available.

Hunter's sense of the potentially popular guided him towards a number of successes unexpected by everyone except himself. Putting Doris Day and Rock Hudson together in *Pillow Talk* spawned a whole series of family comedies which understood perfectly how to be sufficiently naughty along with being overwhelmingly nice.

Hunter was the only one with the sense to put Julie Andrews back into the Twenties where she had so triumphed on stage in *The Boy Friend* for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (1967). And, of course, he was the man who first saw the great potential of simply crowding a planeload of stars, past and present, together in an apparently doomed airliner for *Airport* and just letting the sparks fly.

But common sense sometimes deserted him. *Back Street* (1961) with Susan Hayward badly miscast, and *Madame X* (1966) with Lana Turner proved to be two remakes too far. And then he was brought down by a species of *folie de grandeur* after the gigantic success of *Airport* when he determined to fulfil one of his ambitions by producing a musical remake of *Lost Horizon*.

To do this he had to change studios, as Columbia was not going to release the rights of one of its all-time classics, and even though he commissioned a new score from Burt Bacharach and assembled an all-star cast again, he was on alien territory and effectively sabotaged his own career. Consequently after 1973 he never managed to make another cinema movie, and his various attempts at a television comeback, including a mini-series called *The Moneychangers* (1976) with Kirk Douglas and Anne Baxter, and another called *The Best Place to Be* (1978) with Helen Hayes and Donna Reed, landed with a dull thud.

Hunter was very much a phenomenon of the last years of big studio power. He knew well how to manipulate the casting of contract artistes and to reanimate the old faithful subjects his studio happened to control. He also had a unique empathy for the middlebrow tastes of Middle America — especially the feminine half of it. But by the beginning of the Seventies flower-power, feminism, the permissive society and other such phenomena had begun to invade even his home territory. He was finally out of touch with his audience and retreated into unwilling, but relatively graceful, retirement. There were no doubt still those who hankered after his proclaimed ideal of making "movies like they don't make 'em any more", but just not enough of them to keep him going.

Hunter never married.

ROSWELL GILPATRIC

Roswell Gilpatric, United States Deputy Secretary of Defence, 1961-64, died in New York on March 15 aged 89. He was born on November 4, 1906.



THERE were three options on the table when President John F. Kennedy summoned his National Security Council for a critical meeting in October 1962. At issue was the response to the decision of the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev to install ballistic missiles on the island of Cuba, only 90 miles from America's shore and able for the first time to threaten the heart of the United States. The fate of the world hung upon Kennedy's decision. With the fiasco of the Bay of Pigs invasion still fresh in his memory, the President was disinclined to seize the first option: a negotiated settlement through the agency of the United Nations. Aside from America's inherent distrust of the international body, Kennedy clearly felt that such a move would be interpreted as a sign of US weakness by the Soviet Union. He wanted to make a strong and unambiguous reply to what he saw as a flagrant threat to the United States.

This left two choices: an immediate airstrike on the missile bases under construction, followed by a full-scale invasion of Cuba; or the imposition of a naval blockade. Kennedy turned to his aides for advice. They were divided. McGeorge Bundy, the National Security Adviser, argued strongly in favour of an airstrike. The Defence Secretary, Robert McNamara, fearing that this might initiate a third world war, favoured a blockade.

It was at this point that Gilpatric, who seldom spoke up during such meetings, broke the impasse. "Essentially, Mr President," he said, "this is a choice between limited action and unlimited action, and most of us think that it's better to start with limited action."

Kennedy, who valued Gilpatric's calm judgment, finally nodded agreement. The blockade was imposed on October 22, 1962. Two days later, Soviet ships carrying missiles to Cuba turned back to their home ports, and within six days the crisis had been defused by Khrushchev's agreeing to demolish the Cuban launching sites.

Roswell Leavitt Gilpatric, a Yale-educated lawyer with strong links with the defence industry, had entered government service as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force in 1951 under President Truman. He later became Under Secretary before returning to private life in 1953 when President Eisenhower captured the White House for the Republicans.

It was on Kennedy's personal recommendation that Gilpatric became Robert McNamara's second-in-command in 1961, and the two men made an effective team. Gilpatric played an active role in Kennedy's reorganisation of the defence establishment, and continued to serve briefly under President Lyndon Johnson before retiring from the Administration in 1964. In the late 1960s Gilpatric made headline news as one of Jacqueline Kennedy's closest escorts. Intimate correspondence between the two came to light after she had married Aristotle Onassis.

Gilpatric subsequently became chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from 1972 to 1975, and served as a trustee of New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, the New York Public Library and the Metropolitan Museum.

His first four marriages ended in divorce. He is survived by his fifth wife, Mimi, and by a son and two daughters of his first marriage.

MICHAEL BROWN

Michael Brown, architect and landscape architect, died on February 20 aged 72. He was born on May 8, 1923.



MICHAEL BROWN was a pioneering figure in the landscape profession. In the heyday of the new towns in 1964, he was the landscape consultant to a team formed by Sir Hugh Wilson and Lewis Womersley to draw up proposals for the New Town of Redditch in Worcestershire. It was there that he was able to develop his philosophies of design based on ecological principles. Innovatory aspects such as the retention of the existing landscape pattern of woodland and hedgerow, the use of topography to determine the town form, and the utilisation of watercourses were central to his overall concept of a new town.

He was born in Edinburgh and trained as an architect at the Edinburgh College of Art. He qualified in 1951, after wartime service partly in India. His early career was spent in the London County Council schools division, and then in a private practice in London. In 1955 he was awarded a scholarship to the department of landscape at the University of Pennsylvania, where he came under the influence of Ian McHarg, as did many other young landscape architects of his generation. McHarg's strongly ecological approach to landscape issues inspired Brown, and encouraged him to follow an holistic approach to environmental planning, based on biological principles.

Brown then worked in the office of Dan Kiley in Vermont, another giant in the landscape world. Projects included the Saarinen House in Ohio and the Rockefeller Institute in New York. He returned to Pennsylvania to teach with McHarg before returning to Britain with his wife Joan, to raise his family, with the hopes of leading an idyllic country life in Oxfordshire. Country life, however, was not to be, and the family settled in London, where Brown worked initially for Sir Eric Lyons, the architect behind Span's innovative Modernist designs in London. Brown set up his own practice in 1962.

This practice grew rapidly and by the mid-1970s was one of the largest landscape offices in the country, employing around twenty staff. Many aspiring landscape architects worked for Brown, lowly paid, but motivated by his conviction that the health of the planet and the quality of life could be greatly enhanced by landscape design. Notable examples of his work during this period were the Brunel Estate at Paddington, Beavers Farm at Hounslow, and the huge Graham Park Estate on the site of the old Hendon Aerodrome. Brown went on lecture tours, published papers, and took on teaching work at universities in Britain, America and Canada.

Commissions began to diminish in the early 1980s, however, with the reduction in the public housing programme, and the reorganisation of the London boroughs. Brown then set up a study centre in Devon on ecology, sustainability, yoga and Buddhism — all related to landscape design.

On his retirement from practice in the early 1990s, Brown bought a home in the Cotswolds, and concentrated on the idea of sustainability. He advocated, preached, and lectured on an holistic approach to environmental design and planning, with a particular emphasis on the need to develop a biological basis for sustainable planning. He promoted the notion of building sustainable settlements and in this connection was invited, in 1992, by the Tibetan government in exile, to visit settlements in northern India with a view to assisting in settlement design.

Brown's 70th birthday was marked by a gathering at his home, Touchstone, in the Cotswolds, where all activities were centred around the yurt — a primitive nomadic dwelling tent, which a Cotswold craftsman had built on his lawn.

During his busy years in practice, Brown did not have much time for writing books. He did, however, contribute to the *Urban Landscape Handbook* in 1972, and in 1983 to *City Landscape*. His last publication was a privately circulated article — *Ideas for a Sustainable Village — and its relevance for a rapidly changing world*.

Brown's marriage ended in divorce, and he leaves his daughter and two sons.

ALED EAMES

Aled Eames, maritime historian, died on March 8 aged 74. He was born on July 29, 1921.



IN HIS lectures, delivered with verve, words tumbling forth in profusion, Aled Eames encouraged the descendants of mariners to seek out letters and photographs from trunks and drawers, thus enriching maritime studies with a goodly haul of first-hand testimony. He had the knack of drawing out from even taciturn sea captains in the twilight of their days valuable nuggets of information which might otherwise have been forever lost.

He never descended into mere anecdotage but wove his narrative into a scholarly whole. In Wales he was a pioneer of the systematic study of maritime history and his many works are valued beyond these shores.

Aled Eames was educated at John Bright's School, Llandudno, and at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, where he graduated with a first in history. After brief periods in the British Council and as a schoolmaster, he returned to his old college as a lecturer in education. He was for 20 years a notable warden of Neuadd Reichel, the men's hall of residence. He had an easy rapport with students, whose interests he tirelessly championed. But by the late 1960s it was clear that his consuming passion was the study of seafaring, for which he was admirably equipped.

Brought up in Llandudno, he had often heard tales of the sea and early learnt to distinguish between "salts" who were genuine and those who were not. During the war it was inevitable that he should join the Royal Navy. As a young officer he took part in the Normandy landings and was twice mentioned in dispatches. He was distressed and frustrated that a cruel illness prevented him from participating in the 1994 50th anniversary celebration of D-Day which was for him a kind of St Crispin's Day.

His intimate knowledge of the sea in all her moods was indispensable, as was at once evident in his first substantial volume, *Ships and Seamen of Anglesey* (1973) and in its successor, *Porthmadog Ships* (1975), a study of those lovely, outstanding ships which sailed to all parts of the world.

His researches in the Gwynedd archives were further broadened when he was elected in 1981 to the Caird fellowship at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, thus strengthening his links with Basil Greenhill, Robin Craig and other experts. He soon detected similarities between northwest Wales and other maritime communities, in Scandinavia, the northeastern seaboard of America and elsewhere.

In *Ventures in Sail* (1987), another major work, he drew attention to the fleets of Welsh ship managers based in Liverpool.

He took easily to radio and television. In 1986 he presented the BBC2 series of films *Tradewinds*, in co-operation with Canadian and Finnish television, which were much acclaimed, as was a series in Welsh. Fortune did not always smile upon him, but even in dark days he had an unquenchable sense of fun which delighted his family and a wide circle of friends. For two years he looked death from cancer in the eye.

He was twice married, first to Hazel (née Phillips), by whom he had two daughters, and secondly to Freda (née Cale), by whom he had one son and two daughters; all survive him.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Glyn Holland, Vicar, Ferrybridge, St Andrew (Wakefield): to be Vicar of All Saints', Middlesbrough (York).

The Rev Roger Kenward, now temporary Priest-in-Charge, Chiddingly w. East Hoathly (Chichester).

The Rev David Marshall, Curate, Holy Spirit, Dovecot, and Diocesan Communications Officer: to be Priest-in-charge, St James, Westbrook (Liverpool).

The Rev Jonathan Mortimer, Curate, St Matthew's, Rugby (Coventry): to be Curate, Southgate (Chichester).

The Rev Michael Oates, Assistant Curate, Enfield St Andrew (London): to be Team Vicar, Oakdale St George Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Graham Pacey, Assistant Curate, Kirkleatham: to be Vicar of St Agnes, Middlesbrough (York).

The Rev John Poole, Priest-in-Charge, Cottered with Broadfield and Throcking (St Albans): to be Chaplain of the Church of the Resurrection, Bucharest (Europe).

The Rev Clive Porthouse, Vicar, St Peter w Christ Church and St Matthew, Southborough (Rochester): to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral.

The Rev James Potter, Vicar, St Leonard, Dordon (Birmingham): to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.

The Rev Susan Proctor, Team Vicar, Aston cum Aughton w Swallownest, Todwick and Ulley: to be Rector, Dinnington (Sheffield).

The Rev Dr John Railton, Vicar, Bridgemary (Portsmouth): to be Team Rector, Ridgeway Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Kenneth Reeve, Curate, Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich: Priest-in-Charge, All Saints', South Lynn (Norwich).

The Rev Dr Peter Sedgwick, formerly Vice-Principal of Westcott House, Cambridge: now Assistant Secretary, Board for Social Responsibility, Church House, Westminster.

The Rev Martin Seeley, Secretary for Continuing Ministerial Education, and Selection Secretary, Advisory Board of Ministry, Church House, Westminster: to be Vicar, Christ Church w St John and St Luke's, Isle of Dogs (London).

The Rev Andrew Sewell, Curate, Adel: to be Curate of Far Headingley and part-time Assistant Diocesan Missioner (Ripon).

The Rev Neil Short, Curate, St Augustine, Undercliffe (Bradford): to be Vicar, St John, Burscough Bridge (Liverpool).

The Rev Graham Smith, Royal Navy Chaplain: Curate, Henfield (Chichester).

The Rev Howard Stoker, Curate, Hessle (York): Curate of Richmond w Hudswell and Curate in Charge, Downholme and Marske (Ripon).

The Rev Stephen Tucker, Chaplain and Dean of Divinity, New College, Oxford: Priest-in-Charge, Ovingdean, and Diocesan Continuing Ministerial Education Officer (Chichester).

The Rev Timothy Ward, Curate, St Paul, Dorking (Guildford): to be Curate, StSaviour, Herne Hill (Southwark).

The Rev Harold Webb, Chaplain for the Royal Association in Aid of Deaf People in Surrey (Guildford): to be Vicar, Roade and Ashton w Hartwell (Peterborough).

The Rev Kate Ricketts, Chaplain, Birmingham Children's Hospital: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.

The Rev Richard Wells, Vicar, Milford: to be Rector, Westbourne (Chichester).

The Rev Keith West, Curate of Rawmarsh w Parkgate (Sheffield): to be Curate, St Mary, Armley w New Wortley (Ripon).

The Rev Edward Wilkinson, Priest-in-Charge, Newbottle, Houghton-le-Spring: to be Vicar of that benefice (Durham).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Roger Chamberlain, Vicar, St Cyprian, Hay Mills (Birmingham): to resign April 22.

The Rev John Selvini, Vicar, Goldenhill (Lichfield): to resign September 30.

HULKS AND CONVICT PRISONS

The reference in Her Majesty's Speech to the subject of improving the administration of the prisons, and effecting thereby a relief to local burdens, suggests an inquiry into the course of events which gradually led to the Government charging itself with the cost and, as an ultimate consequence, assuming the control of penal establishments ...

Up to the time of American Independence the mode of carrying out sentences of transportation was exceedingly simple. Either the criminals transported themselves, or else they were handed over to a contractor, who engaged to transport them to America or elsewhere, on condition of retaining for himself, his heirs and assigns, a property in their services during the period of their sentences. The contractor realised his profit by selling the convicts by auction, and sometimes he evaded his bargain by setting them free on payment of a sum of money. Messrs. Stephenson and Randolf, the great contractors, alleged that by reason of the mortality, due to the wretched condition to which the prisoners were reduced during their stay in the local prisons before being handed over to them, they sometimes lost immensely by the transaction, and on this account, as well, probably as on account of the fluctuations in the demand for labour in the Colonies, it became necessary to pay the contractors a certain sum — sometimes about £5 — per head in addition to the property in the services of the convicts. A considerable number of persons sentenced to transportation evidently remained in the local prisons for at least a large part of their sentences, and it is likely enough that many were never sent abroad at all ...

John Howard, the prison reformer, makes reference to the heavy expense the transports were to the local authorities before the Act of 1776, which was passed to legalise the use of hulks as places for carrying out sentences for offences heretofore punishable by transportation when the removal of these offenders to America was no longer possible. This Act ... provided, "as a temporary measure," that criminals sentenced to transportation, or whose sentences of death were commuted, might be sent to hulks, seven years' transportation being replaced by from one to five years in the hulks, and 14 years' transportation by seven years in the hulks ...

The experience as to professional in comparison with amateur superintendence of prisons does not seem to have been realized in 1842, when Pentonville Prison was opened, for the Act of Parliament which provided for its management enacted that it should be placed under Commissioners, not more than 11 nor less than seven, to be appointed by the Secretary of State, and to have the powers of Visiting Justices and certain other duties, with control over all appointments ...

In 1850 the long series of Acts of parliament which provided for the government of the Prisons in which persons sentenced to transportation or any corresponding punishment might be confined was brought to an end by "an Act for the better Government of Convict Prisons", which may be pronounced successful in that it has lasted unaltered for upwards of a quarter of a century.

ON THIS DAY

March 18, 1876

After American independence, prisoners sentenced to transportation could no longer be dispatched across the Atlantic and, for a time, it became the practice to employ the hulks (old wooden vessels); later a convict settlement was established at Botany Bay

NEWS

The Queen leads day of mourning

■ The Queen conveyed the thoughts of an entire nation yesterday when she visited Dunblane to meet parents and families of the 16 children and their teacher who died in last Wednesday's school massacre.

In a private 15-minute meeting in the city, the Queen, accompanied by the Princess Royal, was visibly moved as she told 30 of the bereaved of the grief and profound sympathy felt for them by the entire country..... **Pages 1, 3, 16, 17**

Mellor heads campaign for handgun ban

■ The Government faced increasing calls from MPs for a total ban on handguns in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy. The demands were led by David Mellor, the former Home Office Minister, who is seeking an early amendment to outlaw the type of weapons used by the mass killer..... **Page 1**

Uncertain Bruno

Frank Bruno flew home to an uncertain future after his third-round defeat by Mike Tyson in the WBC heavyweight championship in Las Vegas on Saturday. The reverse was so conclusive that it left Bruno with little future in boxing..... **Pages 1, 21, 22**

Dambusters order

The original battle order for the Dambusters' raid on Germany in May 1943 is to be auctioned shortly in London..... **Page 1**

Clarke stays on

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will not resign if the Cabinet endorses a referendum on a single European currency, despite his opposition to a poll, Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, said..... **Pages 2, 16**

Spring optimism

Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, expressed optimism that the IRA would restore its ceasefire to allow Sinn Fein to join all-party talks in Northern Ireland in June..... **Page 2**

Powell denial

General Colin Powell sought to quash a new wave of speculation that he would run for vice-president with Bob Dole..... **Page 9**

Fishing tales

Cornish trawlermen gave the EU Fisheries Commissioner the rough edge of their tongues when she visited Newlyn..... **Page 4**

Chinese warning

Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, warned the United States not to send warships into the Taiwan Strait, where China plans to start a new round of military exercises today..... **Page 10**

Brightness at night

The brightest comet for 20 years should be visible to the naked eye before the end of the week, astronomers are predicting..... **Page 7**

Iran at the centre

Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, has for the first time openly singled out Iran as being behind the Islamic suicide attacks in Israel..... **Page 11**

Cooks' tours

Tired and frustrated by the pressures of a humdrum existence, an army of bankers, City traders, journalists and salesmen are seeking celebrity and self-fulfilment in the heat and bustle of the restaurant kitchen..... **Pages 6, 17**

Ban on extremists

Students with extreme political or religious views will be barred from standing for full-time representative posts under a code of practice being negotiated between vice-chancellors and the students' union..... **Page 5**

Partition fear

Fleeing Serbs set fire to Sarajevo's main market, raising fears that Bosnia-Herzegovina is hurtling towards partition..... **Page 8**

We really are trying to put you through

■ There are two ways of acquiring a telephone in India: pay through the nose or wait about a decade. The Delhi bureau of *The Times* has acquired a second line. The new telephone gave a triumphant first ring last week and died. This will be rectified by the local lineman, who extracts *backsheesh* from subscribers who know the futility of lodging complaints..... **Page 11**



JAMES MORGAN

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother with members of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards at Chelsea Barracks, London, yesterday, where she presented them with her annual gift of shamrock in celebration of St Patrick's Day

BUSINESS

Postal strike: The Royal Mail could be just weeks off strike action after an apparent breakdown of the relationship between the management and the main union over new working practices..... **Page 40**

Share issue: The Abbey National, still visibly pained over the mess that accompanied its stock market flotation almost seven years ago, is making strenuous efforts to prevent a recurrence later this year..... **Page 36**

Power play: A large stake in South Western Electricity has been put up for sale..... **Page 40**

Paper offer: Mohamed Al Fayed's offer for *The Observer* looks set to be rejected, even though Mr Al Fayed's consortium has raised the price to £25 million..... **Page 40**

ARTS

Busy dramatist: On first appearance, the two new plays by Nigel Williams, both opening in London next week, are by two different writers. But, as it turns out, *Harry and Me* and *The Last Romantics* have plenty in common..... **Page 12**

Unfortunate choice: Gay Sweatshop theatre celebrates its 21st anniversary with a disappointing new play by Philip Osment, *The Undertaking*..... **Page 12**

Irish jig: There was a party atmosphere at the Shepherds Bush Empire when Ireland's the Saw Doctors ended their series of London gigs in fine style..... **Page 12**

Operatic hit: Harrison Birtwistle's 1994 opera *The Second Mrs Kong* is proving a popular choice for European opera houses..... **Page 13**

FEATURES

Lonely years: "On the odd occasions that Henry awoke, his stare was vacant, he would not feed. Yet still every routine test deemed him flawless." Henrietta Spink on her battle to unravel the mystery of her elder son's handicap..... **Page 15**

Bowled over: Ardent cricket-lovers will find themselves orphaned today. The World Cup has ended, and the days return, dragging their feet like reluctant schoolboys, to the way they used to be..... **Page 15**

MIND AND MATTER

Watery frontier: They are thought to be inhabited by fantastical life forms and littered with untold riches, but what secret worlds really lie at the bottom of the oceans? Anjana Ahuja reports..... **Page 14**

SPORT

Boxing: Mike Tyson dispelled any doubts about a return to his fearsome best with a crushing victory in the WBC heavyweight championship bout in Las Vegas that has left Frank Bruno contemplating retirement..... **Pages 21, 22**

Cricket: Aravinda de Silva, the Kent overseas player last season, steered Sri Lanka to a memorable seven-wicket win in the World Cup final in Lahore. De Silva engineered the victory over Australia, scoring 107 not out after taking three for 43..... **Page 23**

Football: Celtic kept up the pressure on the Scottish premier division leaders, Rangers, with a 1-1 draw in the Old Firm derby at Ibrox. Port Vale were beaten 5-2 by Genoa in the Anglo-Italian Cup final at Wembley and Leeds drew 2-2 with Everton in the FA Premiership..... **Pages 26, 27, 29**

Golf: Colin Montgomerie, playing his first tournament on the European Tour this season, opened with a victory in the Dubai Desert Classic, winning by one stroke from Miguel Angel Jiménez..... **Page 33**

Rugby union: David Hands reports on England's achievement in winning the five nations' championship with a squad containing several newcomers to the international scene..... **Pages 24, 25**

LOTTERY

2, 12, 19, 28, 38, 48. Bonus: 45. There were 57 winners.



IN THE TIMES

■ **OPERA TALE**
The production we will never see: why *Il Corsaro* isn't coming to Covent Garden

■ **IN TORMENT**
Mothers, madness and medieval justice: How English law deals with women who kill

TODAY'S PROMISES

Preview: Relativity has pride of place in the concluding part of the Albert Einstein story, *Horizon: Einstein — Fame* (BBC2, 8pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss thinks she hears the sound of coffin nails being hammered home..... **Page 39**

The legless bear

The West's goal is a democratic Russia; but this election looks less and less like a straight contest between democratic reformers and authoritarians..... **Page 17**

Blair unbound

Mr Blair should tell his backbenchers that the games an Opposition plays must now give way to the disciplined work of an aspiring government..... **Page 17**

Golden Square Meal

Our report that bankers are giving up their big salaries to train as chefs represents a triumph of experience over hope of becoming a master of the universe..... **Page 17**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Last week in the Lords, those of us voting for an amendment to the Divorce Bill were outvoted by the usual moral majority in the House of Lords, a coalition of permissives and placepersons..... **Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

Sceptics' interests would be better served by collective responsibility than a referendum..... **Page 16**

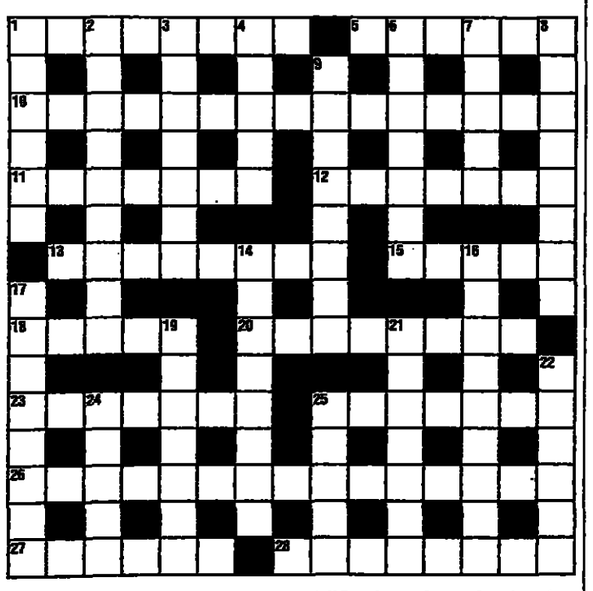
Ross Hunter, Hollywood film producer; **Roswell Gilpatric,** former US Deputy Secretary of Defence; **Aled Eames,** the maritime historian..... **Page 19**

Proposals of Family Law Bill; security of schools; treasure troves; young Picasso; recyled glass; cars in London..... **Page 17**

Given up for dead little more than four years ago, the Soviet Union could rise again in the near future if the Communists win the June presidential election. But it is one thing to recognise that the USSR dissolved itself too quickly, quite another to ignore the fact that it was the last multi-ethnic empire held together by force

—La Repubblica

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,118



ACROSS

1 Look for suppliers of lights (8).
5 School's head caught entering with rod (6).
10 Thus saw deal as contrary to inclination? (7,3,5).
11 Ignore orders and act without one's governor (7).
12 They may slave away when employed on galleys (7).
13 Distressing detail about broken-down nag (8).
15 Retired officer used with hesitation as stand-in (5).
18 A politician defends outmoded change off the cuff (2,3).
20 Unknown northern doctor going into certain symptoms (8).
23 Troublemaker's gang initially ousting king from citadel (7).
25 Live beside bar that's tailored to one's needs (7).
26 What better hopes for changing those in authority? (3,6,4,2).
27 Salad ingredient in food taken by artist (6).
28 Leaves much to be desired at this social gathering? (3,5).

DOWN

1 Bishop with lustful spirit (6).
2 Lots to do, unfortunately, containing a fungus (9).
3 Worthing carrier left behind at Victoria (7).
4 Mole's friend in bad-tempered mood (5).
6 How to show approval as setter, say, gets the bird (7).
7 Artist drops out of rat race to do drawings (5).
8 Good-looking sweetheart following daughter in cab (8).
9 Sort of chair that woman used outside (8).
14 Missing person delivered into protection of a social worker (8).
16 Source of relief – one arriving outside stronghold (9).
17 Criminal sticking queen up without remorse (8).
19 Cries out for an organ-blower (7).
21 Fruit originated with it (4-3).
22 In this situation, say, having eliminated a dissenting belief (6).
24 Some of them endeavour to improve as editors (5).
25 Thrash son in fit of temper (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 40

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,117 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Soms	705
Beds,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

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Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Bexley/Orpington	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey 13C (55F); lowest day max: Spaceadam, Cumbria, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Manchester, Strathclyde, 0.43in; highest sunshine: Jersey 9.3hr

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be bright and mainly dry. Wales and southwest England will have a mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers, the wet weather lingering over Dyfed and Cornwall into the evening. Central and southeastern England can expect bright spells with glimpses of sunshine and also the chance of showers.

Northeast England will be dull and overcast with drizzle at times. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a mainly dry day with rather cloudy skies but also some sunny breaks. Eastern Scotland, and in particular the northeast, will be grey with drizzle and this will fall as sleet and snow over high ground.

London, SE & Cent N England, E Midlands: mist and fog clearing. Mainly cloudy, some bright spells. Isolated showers. Wind southeast, light. Max 9C (48F).

E Anglia, E England: mainly cloudy, some bright spells. Wind east, light. Rather cold. Max 7C (45F).

Central S England, W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, SW Scotland: cloudy, isolated showers. Becoming brighter and mainly dry. Wind southeast, light. Rather mild. Max 9C (48F).

Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland: some sunshine, scattered showers. Wind southeast, light to moderate. Rather mild. Max 10C (50F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Orkney: dull and cloudy, drizzle at times. Sleet in places. Wind east, moderate. Feeling rather cold. Max 6C (43F).

Glasgow, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland, Shetland: mainly dry and cloudy, some sunshine. Wind east, moderate. Max 7C (45F).

Outlook: mainly dry and bright on Tuesday, rain spreading from the west on Wednesday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

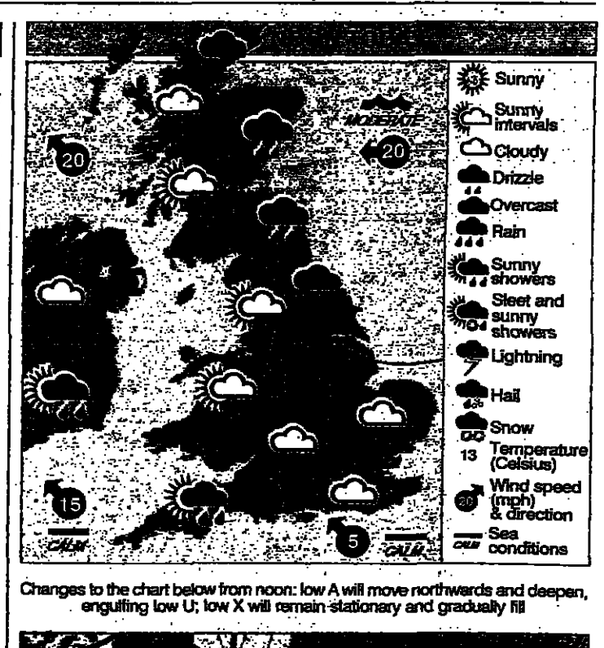
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.13	3	37	sl	Lauchars	-	0.40	3	37	sl
Anglesey	3.9	-	11	52	b	Littlehmptn	8.3	-	10	50	s
Aviemore	8.7	0.15	8	46	r	Liverpool	3.7	-	9	48	s
Aviemore	-	-	4	39	sn	London	7.9	-	12	54	s
Belfast	3.8	0.04	7	45	sh	Lowestoft	-	-	4	39	du
Birmingham	3.8	-	9	48	sh	Manchester	5.1	0.05	9	48	s
Bognor R	4.2	-	10	50	s	Margate	5.4	-	7	45	s
Bournem'th	X	-	10	50	s	Minehead	1.7	-	11	52	c
Bristol	2.4	-	10	50	b	Morecambe	8.4	0.05	9	48	c
Buxton	0.9	0.06	5	41	c	Newcastle	-	0.06	9	48	r
Cardiff	1.2	0.01	9	48	sh	Newquay	0.9	0.22	9	48	r
Colwyn Bay	8.2	-	9	48	s	Norwich	-	-	5	41	du
Cromer	-	-	3	37	du	Nottingham	X	-	-	-	-
Dunbar	X	-	-	-	-	Oxford	1.5	-	9	48	sh
Eastbourne	7.6	-	8	46	s	Penzance	1.5	0.09	11	52	sh
Edinburgh	-	0.35	4	39	du	Poole	6.4	-	10	50	s
Eskdalemuir	-	0.13	2	36	d	Prestatyn	X	-	11	52	s
Exmouth	2.0	0.03	9	48	c	Ross-o-wye	2.0	-	10	50	sh
Falmouth	1.1	0.14	9	48	sh	Salcombe	3.4	0.03	11	52	sh
Fishguard	6.3	0.05	11	52	sh	Sandown	3.0	-	8	46	s
Folkestone	7.1	-	8	46	b	Saunton Snd	1.9	0.06	11	52	c
Glasgow	-	0.32	5	41	c	Scarboro'	-	0.10	3	37	sl
Guernsey	8.9	-	13	55	s	Shrewsbury	0.8	-	9	48	s
Hastings	8.5	-	9	48	s	Southend	8.6	-	8	46	s
Hayling I.	5.7	-	8	46	s	Southport	5.1	-	9	48	s
Herne Bay	7.2	-	8	43	s	Southsea	4.5	-	8	46	s
Hove	6.6	-	8	46	b	Stornoway	4.7	0.11	7	45	b
Hunstanton	-	-	5	41	du	Swanage	3.8	-	8	46	s
Ilfracombe	0.2	-	11	52	du	Teignemouth	2.5	0.31	9	48	r
Isle of Man	1.5	-	10	50	c	Tiree	7.7	0.13	8	46	s
Jersey	9.3	-	9	48	s	Torquay	4.4	0.05	10	50	s
Kinloss	-	0.02	4	39	r	Tynemouth	-	0.06	4	39	d
Leeds	-	0.06	5	41	du	Ventnor	5.0	-	10	50	sh
Lerwick	-	-	4	39	h	Weymouth	8.0	-	10	50	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	12	54	r	Corfu	13	55	f	Madrid	11	52	s
Alicante	16	64	c	C'phagn	0	32	c	Majorca	14	57	s
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	7	45	r	Malaga	15	59	f
Algiers	17	63	s	Dubrovnik	12	54	f	Malta	15	59	c
Amst'dm	5	41	c	Faro	15	59	s	Malta'me	16	61	c
Athens	15	59	f	Florence	17	63	s	Mendoc'o	25	77	s
B Aires	30	86	s	Frankfurt	8	48	f	Miami	26	79	s
Bahrain	22	73	s	Funchal	19	66	s	Milan	10	50	f
Bangkok	34	93	s	Geneva	10	50	f	Montreal	0	32	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	17	63	f	Moscow	2	36	s
Barcelona	14	57	f	Helsinki	0	32	sn	Munich	-9	48	c
Beirut	19	66	s	Hong K	27	81	c	N Delhi	25	77	f
Belgrade	4	39	f	Innsbruck	12	54	f	N York	7	45	s
Berlin	3	37	c	Istanbul	6	43	r	Nairobi	28	82	f
Bermuda	19	66	f	Jeddah	33	91	s	Naples	14	57	f
Biarritz	11	52	f	Jo'burg	23	75	f	Nice	14	57	f
Borde'x	14	57	f	Karachi	X	-	-	Oslo	1	34	c
Brussels	5	41	c	L Angeles	16	61	c	Paris	10	50	c
Budapst	7	45	c	L Palmas	21	70	s	Peking	7	45	s
Cairo	22	72	f	Le Touqt	9	48	f	Perth	29	84	s
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Lisbon	14	57	s	Prague	3	37	c
Ch'church	X	-	-	Locarno	X	-	-	Reykjavik	5	41	s
Chicago	4	39	s	Luxembg	4	39	f	Rhodes	16	61	f
Cologne	7	45	f	Luxor	34	93	s	Rio de J	28	82	f
Riyadh	27	81	s								
Rome	12	54	r								
S Fr'isco	15	59	c								
S Paulo	28	79	c								
Salzburg	9	48	s								
Santiago	29	84	s								
Seoul	7	45	f								
Sing'por	33	91	f								
Stckholm	0	32	sn								
Strasb'rg	10	50	s								
Sydney	24	75	s								
Tangier	16	61	f								
Tel Aviv	21	70	s								
Tenerife	21	70	s								
Tokyo	12	54	c								
Toronto	0	32	s								
Tunis	16	61	c								
Valencia	16	61	c								
Vanc'ver	8	46	c								
Venice	12	54	f								
Vienna	9	48	c								
Warsaw	-1	30	c								
Wash'ton	12	54	s								
Zurich	10	50	s								

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low A will move northwards and deepen, engulfing low U; low X will remain stationary and gradually fill



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0:27	6.8	1:01	7.2	Leith	1:29	5.4	1:45	5.5
Aberdeen	0:20	4.1	12:24	4.2	Liverpool	10:18	9.7	10:44	9.6
Avonmouth	6:14	13.4	6:38	13.7	Lowestoft	8:40	2.4	8:58	2.5
Belfast	10:10	3.6	10:37	3.5	Margate	11:24	4.8	11:38	4.8
Cardiff	6:10	12.8	6:34	12.7	Milford Haven	5:15	7.1	5:38	7.1
Devonport	4:43	5.5	5:14	5.4	Newquay	4:05	7.0	4:30	7.0
Dover	10:28	6.6	10:39	6.8	Oban	4:48	4.0	5:16	3.8
Dublin (N Wall)	10:40	4.1	11:13	4.0	Penzance	3:42	5.6	4:05	5.5
Falmouth	4:16	5.3	4:43	5.1	Portland	5:48	2.1	6:20	2.0
Greenock	11:45	3.5	-	-	Portsmouth	10:22	4.7	10:52	4.8
Harwich	10:51	4.1	11:06	4.0	Shoreham	10:27	6.2	10:53	6.5
Holyhead	9:22	5.8	9:51	5.6	Southampton	9:50	4.6	10:17	4.6
Hull (Albert D)	5:23	7.2	5:21	7.5	Swansea	5:21	9.5	5:46	9.5
Ilfracombe	5:02	9.4	5:28	9.4	Tees	2:41	5.3	2:54	5.4
King's Lynn	5:12	6.7	5:30	7.1	Walton-on-Naze	10:50	4.3	11:08	4.2

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Sundown: 6.08 pm — Sun sets: 6.11 pm

Moon sets — Moon rises

New Moon tomorrow

London 6.11 pm to 6.05 am
Bristol 6.20 pm to 6.13 am
Edinburgh 6.23 pm to 6.17 am
Manchester 6.19 pm to 6.13 am
Penzance 6.32 pm to 6.27 am

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CRICKET

23
Sri Lanka put rivals to sword in World Cup final

RUGBY UNION

25
England learn to live with life after Carling

FOOTBALL

29
Honours even in Old Firm match at Ibrox

GOLF

33
Flying Scotsman off to a winning start

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 18 1996



Tyson, right, finds a way through Bruno's defences during the second round of the bout in which he took the world title from the Briton at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas. Photograph: Jeff Haynes

Nervous Briton felled by Tyson's ferocious onslaught

Bruno's world taken apart

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN LAS VEGAS

ONCE again Frank Bruno is faced with the question of retirement. Twice he has come close to it after defeat: seven years ago, when he lost in five rounds to Mike Tyson, and then in 1993, when he was stopped by Lennox Lewis in seven. Now, after being brutally swept aside in three rounds again by Tyson here on Saturday, it must be clear to him that there is no longer any point in carrying on. This time, it is thought, he will see sense and quit.

He is going to think about his future for another 24 hours but he and his wife, Laura, who manages him, must realise that there is nothing left to fight for. Immediately after the bout he said: "I'm not making a decision yet. I'm going to chill out with my family. I've got things to do and then I'll go and think about my future. I need 24 hours to sit down and relax. I don't want to make any hasty decisions." He must have had retirement on his mind when he added: "When I was champion, I fought Mike Tyson. That'll look good on my CV."

At 34, neither his nerves nor his reflexes can handle the pressures of heavyweight boxing at the level to which he has been accustomed. The bout with Tyson made that amply clear because he lost the contest in his dressing-room. He was nervous. From the moment he set off on his long walk to the ring, and for most of the contest, he appeared apprehensive. He crossed himself 13 times or more on leaving his dressing-room and three times before the start of the bout. He then had to resort constantly to holding to survive.

After 14 years of campaigning, he does not have enough left in the tank to continue, but he has more than enough in the bank. After taking nearly £5 million this time he is a millionaire many times over. Bruno has distinguished himself in boxing and now it is time for him to go. Because his immense strength refuses to allow him to go down when badly hurt or semi-conscious, in all his five defeats — by James "Bonecrusher" Smith, Tim Witherspoon, Lewis and Tyson — he has taken more blows than the average boxer does in being stopped. He could be courting irreparable harm if he carries on.

The final blows he took from Tyson shocked even the more bloodthirsty ringsiders who had come to see Tyson take him apart rather than just take his World Boxing Council belt. Mills Lane, the referee, whose shirt was still splattered with Bruno's blood at the post-fight press conference, said: "He was in real trouble and Tyson was on him. It could not have gone on. He got hit with some big punches, 12 or 13 unanswered."

The last moments were electrifying as much for Bruno's inability to do anything about the onslaught that was engulfing him as for the realisation that Tyson was back. Even if Tyson has not yet regained his old fluency, he is even faster now than he was seven years ago, when he first met Bruno. He was 15st 8lb then and just 2lb more this time at the MGM Grand Garden arena.

At the bell for the third round

Bruno's future 1
David Miller 22

Tyson did not launch his usual two-handed attack; he cut his way through with a jab that was so quick that the arm was a blur. Once inside Bruno's defences he dug a right into Bruno's ribs that lent leverage to the left that followed it.

As Bruno wondered where the next blow was coming from, another left hook exploded in his face, then a right and another right. Bruno began to totter. A right uppercut wrenched his head back. Tyson, who was still in full flow, unleashed another uppercut that just grazed his face.

As Bruno's arms waved about to no purpose, another right uppercut left him helpless and a left hook threw him against the ropes. Tyson missed with a couple of punches as Bruno started falling. Lane quickly intervened and, as Bruno sank helplessly against the ropes, the referee removed his gum shield to help his breathing.

As the majority of the capacity crowd of 15,000 cheered wildly, Tyson turned to the side where most of the British supporters were seated and, turning his palms outward, shrugged his shoulders as if to say: "See, it was so easy." Then, once he had his belt round his waist, he climbed through the ropes and stood on the apron of the ring. Facing the crowd, he thumped his belt and said with a sneer on his face: "Mine!" It was a clear message to all other heavyweights that he intended to give them the same treatment.

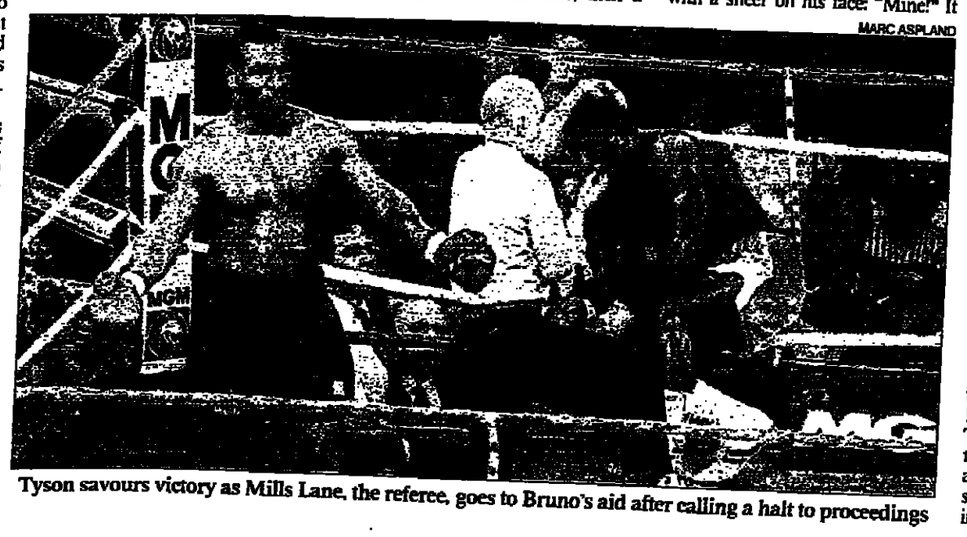
Bruno's performance was a disappointment. He seemed to be so overcome by nerves that he was hardly able to stick to his game-plan of keeping his jab in Tyson's face, even though the challenger's head was an easy target and well within range. All Bruno could do from the first round was keep enveloping the smaller man in his arms. Lane gave him a couple of warnings but Bruno disregarded them and was penalised a point in the second.

Not surprisingly, as a result of Bruno's spoiling tactics his left eye sustained a severe gash, which had to be attended to in hospital. Although the overall impression might be that the bout was one-sided and that Bruno made little attempt to make a fight of it, I did not quite see it like that. I thought Bruno's second round was a good one, as he redeemed his miserable showing in the first with some good toe-to-toe exchanges.

It was an explosive round and Tyson did not get off lightly. Indeed, he was caught with a left hook and three beautiful uppercuts as he came in. Bruno scored with another left hook and a right and the round might have been even had he not been penalised. Bruno's success with the uppercut may have made Tyson change tactics in the next round, when he used the jab to pierce Bruno's defence and then his speed to overwhelm him.

Now it is up to Lewis to retrieve the title for Britain. He will get his chance in September as the mandatory challenger. What Tyson will do in the meantime is not clear. As Lewis has just won a legal battle, Tyson's lawyers will have to sort out the ramifications before he can box again. Don King, Tyson's promoter, still expects him to be back in the ring in July.

MARC ASPLAND



Tyson savours victory as Mills Lane, the referee, goes to Bruno's aid after calling a halt to proceedings

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Boxing's all-night feast leaves bitter aftertaste



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

Frank Bruno was not the only one to get his tactics wrong on Saturday night. All my training — the early morning starts for World Cup cricket, the late night finish for the Australian Grand Prix — counted for nothing. I may be able to talk a good telly night but, at the end of the day, it's the result that counts and, like Big Frank, I blew it.

I saw the fight — all £1.42 a minute of it — but there was no real conviction to the way I stumbled into the living room at 3.30am, no real power behind that normally rock-solid jab at the remote controls. I was out on my feet — which, I suppose, was one up on Bruno.

Two hours later, our defeated champion was typically gracious in defeat, as Ian Darke ducked and weaved without ever actually landing the killer question — why didn't you try punching him, Frank? It did not really matter though. Bruno was giving the same answer to all Darke's questions. "He beat me fair and square, Mr Darke. I just want to say sorry to all those people in Britain who paid their £10 and waited up late at night. I did my best." Once again, it proved impossible to be cross with Bruno for very long.

Yet, as dawn broke, it proved very easy to stay cross with other people. I was cross with Don King, because he managed to get his face in just about every shot (the main perk, presumably, of owning host broadcaster, Don King Productions) and because his Las Vegas card was running an hour late.

The faithfully-promised 4am start time fell into the category of worth staying up for. By contrast, the eventually-delivered 5am start meant one thing only — get an early night and set the alarm. Getting these practicalities right is vital and I got mine wrong — thanks to Joe Bugner and Naseem Hamed, whose combined efforts (two punches, both thrown by Hamed) had not only made me miss *Match of The Day* but sent me briefly and crossly to bed.

Most of all, however, I was cross with Darke for introducing the main event as "probably Britain's biggest sporting moment since England won the World Cup in 1966". Then again Ian, probably not.

Up until then, the BSkyB commentary team had done a good job of not getting carried away with the hype. The ringside pairing that had the most fun were Steve Holdsworth and Nicky Piper, who were in Germany for Bugner against Scott Welch. To their considerable credit, they manged to take the fight seriously for two rounds, but by round three the giggles had set in. Loathe as he had been to criticise "a national icon" such as Bugner, Piper eventually calculated that "you can count the decent punches that he has thrown on one finger and I'm at pains to remember which finger that might be". We left them with Holdsworth asking: "What is an intercontinental championship anyway, Nicky?"

Up in Scotland, the excellent Jim Watt made his satellite debut alongside the ubiquitous Simon Reed. Together, they did about as good a job as you could with a fight that effectively lasted one punch. Watt rightly pointed out that you could not expect the paying public to accept much more of that sort of thing and Reed did a first-class job of keeping Hamed's rampaging ego under control during the post-fight interview. I went to bed wondering whether pay-per-punch might be the future, rather than pay-per-view.

Three hours later, I was back, woken by the gentle burr of Paul Dempsey, perhaps the least-likely anchor man in television, but who, barring the odd stumble or two, did a first-class job during his all-night stint in the presenter's chair and got the best from a well-picked trio of studio guests — Barry McGuigan (who continues to improve with age), Duke McKenzie and Gary Mason. After the fight, they were depressed and divided — uncertain whether it had all gone wrong from the opening bell or from Tyson's first right hand. The difference was a miserable ten seconds. It had been a long night.

No challenger looks capable of standing in the way of new champion

Awesome Tyson offers chill warning

FROM DAVID MILLER IN LAS VEGAS

NOT since Joe Louis defeated Jersey Joe Walcott for the second time, in his 25th defence of the world title in 1948, has heavyweight boxing looked so short of a credible challenger. Mike Tyson, ferocious and single-minded, again stands supreme, still only 29.

It may be that three years of incarceration has not, after all, diminished him but brought, in conjunction with his Muslim faith, a mental maturity. From the moment that the two fighters entered the ring here on Saturday, it was Tyson, not Frank Bruno, who carried the aura of champion.

Yet any celebration of Tyson's recapture of the World Boxing Council title must be measured against the pitiful surrender of the defender. It was an embarrassment to be British as Bruno, without ideas, instinct and, sadly, even courage, was swept aside by an avalanche of blows from Tyson, delivered with bewildering speed and variety.

"I'm not yet at my best," Tyson insisted afterwards. "I still have room for improvement. I *will* improve." Heaven help those who may seek to stand in his way, including Lennox Lewis, his possible next opponent.

Tyson has lost only once in his 44 professional contests, against Buster Douglas in 1990 when his life, as opposed to his career, was starting to fall apart. It is difficult now to see who might halt this fighter who once again exhibited not just an element of iron in his fists, but in willpower.

From the opening bell, he flew at Bruno in a frighteningly controlled rage, landing the first blow within seconds. Bruno, who has never known where to go when seriously attacked, instantly looked as out of place as a choirboy caught in a bar brawl. There were better punches than Bruno's being thrown in the MGM Arena by some of his disillusioned supporters, who were duly led away in handcuffs.

It is not exaggerating to say that Tyson was awesome: first, calmly standing in the ring awaiting the action, dark eyes smouldering, so different from Bruno's nervous, affected flexing of neck and jaw muscles, and then the swiftness of Tyson's execution of an opponent four inches taller but dwarfed in resolution. An attendant said of Bruno that he had never seen a boxer look so frightened.

Bruno stood in the middle of the ring jabbing ineffectually, while Tyson weaved around him, coming in under Bruno's lead and swatting him almost at will. Before the end of the first round, Bruno's left eye was cut, he was hanging on for dear life, and the forecast of the veteran trainer, Johnny Tocco, was being fulfilled. "Stand still, and he's a dead tomato."

Tyson was understandably jubilant. "I was just throwing caution to the wind," he said, having embraced his swarming official entourage in a swirling polka of bodies all the way back to the dressing room. "My objective was just to throw punches, throw punches, to bring him down." He did that with a final staccato rattle of nine blows in as many seconds less than a minute into the third round.

What must surely be the end of Bruno's career would have come even earlier had he not desperately clung to his opponent in pathetic clinches, woodenly failing to exploit the odd occasion when Tyson was openly exposed to an uppercut. When Louis, in 1940, fought the little-known but appropriately named Johnny Paycheck, allegedly a fast mover, Louis had said that he might be able to run but he would have nowhere to hide. Indeed, the dejected hulk of Bruno, a swiftly discredited champion who had arrived in town puffed up by hollow bravado, could not even run.

A poll beforehand of commentators gathered in Las Vegas had accurately produced forecasts 40-5 in Tyson's favour. The respected Jim Murray, of *The Los Angeles Times*, had called Bruno "an imposter" while Ed Schuyler, of Associated Press, had shrewdly observed: "While Tyson may not be what he was, Bruno is" — a stilted, big man with no defence.

Bruno was a lost soul, mentally knocked out while still vertical, from the moment Tyson landed two rights in the first 20 seconds. "He's on to you like a harbour shark," the shattered Bruno said, truthfully. "He doesn't give you time to jab." Untrue. Bruno was merely simply too ponderous and emptily claimed: "I was trying to slow him down and use my weight." A king-sized mattress would have done the job as well.

Speed as much as power was always the key to Tyson's dominance, and the speed appears to be unimpaired. How can Lewis, Riddick Bowe, or anyone else contend with this whirlwind? When Bruno did momentarily catch him with a couple of groping uppercuts, Tyson came through them as though they were no more than moths hitting a car windscreen.

Maybe the former adolescent hoodlum from Brownsville, New York, lovingly reorientated by Cus D'Amato, has come through the traumas of the death of his mother Lorna, his sister Denise, D'Amato and then his manager Jim Jacobs; through the disasters of a first marriage and then imprisonment, to become man instead of monster.

If the millstone of the Don King circus does not sink him, the responsibility of family and genuine charitable interests might after all lead him to the dignified retirement no one would have predicted five years ago.

MARK KOPLAND



A snarling Tyson turns to the crowd to indicate that he has reclaimed the world title belt as his own property

Time for Hamed to face true test

BY DANIEL BARRETT

NASEEM HAMED had planned to throw the "perfect right" to prove that his career had never been jeopardised by the fractured hand that had kept him out of the ring for six months, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight champion claimed after finishing his title defence against an unsatisfactory opponent in near-record time in Glasgow on Saturday night.

There is no doubt that the first punch of the contest, a hooking uppercut which the Hamed camp believes broke the nose of Said Lawal, was a powerful blow, which put the challenger down. Two further rights, which prompted the referee to end the bout in the 35th second of the first round of the contest, after the Nigerian had risen unsteadily from the knockdown, hardly seemed necessary.

However, Britain's most exciting boxer was never going to further his career against the Austria-based Nigerian, who was known to be of limited ability, despite having won 17 of his 19 bouts.

From the moment that Hamed appeared at the Scottish Exhibition Centre, rising on a platform with his name illuminated in flares behind him, until his trademark somersault over the top rope and into the ring 14 minutes later, Lawal, staring at the canvas, looked overwhelmed and intimidated. Even when Hamed strode to the challenger's corner to "eyeball" him, Lawal looked away.

It is difficult, however, to fault Hamed. He carried out a first-class demolition job on the opposition put in front of him. The 22-year-old Briton says he will take at least three bouts this year against title-holders, one probably being Tom Johnson, the International Boxing Federation champion, though he added: "Tonight wasn't about the opponent — you could have put Azumah Nelson [the powerful World Boxing Council super-featherweight champion] in there and he would have gone down. Those shots are too strong. I'll become a legend."

Indeed, the outstanding balance and timing of Hamed combine to produce a power of punch that reaches far beyond his natural weight division. Ingle believes that his boxer has the ability to span several divisions, collecting world titles. Hamed may well possess the skills to do so and, if he does, now is the time to bring on the likes of the durable Mexicans, Daniel Zaragosa and Marco Antonio Barrera.

In Berlin, Joe Bugner, 46, declared he was retiring for good after being stopped in the sixth round by Scott Welch, 27, the British and Commonwealth champion, for the WBO intercontinental title. "There's no question, this is the end of the story," Bugner said. Clearly overweight, Bugner offered little resistance to a competent Welch.

Billington boosts Atlanta aspirations

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH, HOLLAND

HUGO SIMON, of Austria, won his second Volvo World Cup showjumping qualifier in as many weeks when he and Apricot relegated the home crowd's favourite, Eric van der Vleuten on Vink Especiale, to second place by 0.26sec in front of the packed Brabanthalle arena yesterday.

Geoff Billington, one of the leading contenders for the British team for Atlanta, gave his Olympic chances a timely boost when he and It's Otto, who was competing in his first big competition since the leg injury he sustained six months ago, finished in third place after a superb performance against the clock.

"He felt fantastic — as good as ever," Billington said afterwards. He had hoped to jump him in the World Cup qualifier in Dortmund last week but Marc Suls, the Dutch vet who has been treating the ten-year-old gelding for the past two months, said it was too soon.

Drawn third in the 13-horse jump-off, Billington was not short of advice. None of the other Britons in the class — Nick Skelton, Michael and John Whitaker, and Di Lampard — had reached the jump-off. All applied themselves instead to helping Billington. "John told me exactly how to ride the course — he always does," Billington said.

It's Otto underlined his scope with two superb jumps off corners into the big oxers at fences two and four. Although Billington failed to miss out a stride on the approach to the final fence — as advised by Whitaker — he roared home in 30.05sec.

Van der Vleuten took the more economical route and accordingly finished in 28.27sec to the joy of the home crowd, who prepared to acclaim him as the winner. But Simon, 53, the winner in Dortmund on ET, once again showed his timeless skills against the clock with another bravura performance, finishing in 28.01sec.

Results, page 30

SPORT IN BRIEF

McManus holds on to end barren spell

ALAN McMANUS, without a tournament victory since the Dubai Classic of October 1994, ended that drought by winning the Thailand Open snooker title in Bangkok last night with a dramatic 9-8 victory over Ken Doherty (Phil Yates writes). McManus began the stronger, building a 5-3 first-session lead while Doherty registered only one run of any significance, a 76 in the sixth frame. Doherty's scoring touch returned on the resumption, however, as he drew level at 5-5 with contributions of 83 and 89.

McManus failed to pot a single ball in the opening two frames of the evening and seemed destined to lose the next when he trailed 51-12, but Doherty snookered himself to end a 51 break. McManus stole the frame on the black and moved 7-5 ahead only for Doherty to respond by winning the thirteenth frame with an 85 break, the fourteenth on the yellow and the fifteenth with a well-crafted 71. However, McManus took the match its full distance, winning the decider with a nerveless last red-to-pink clearance.

Graf comes through

TENNIS: Steffi Graf overcame heat and a below-par performance to defeat Conchita Martinez 7-6, 7-6 in the final of the State Farm Evert Cup in California. Graf, the top seed, was playing her first tournament since undergoing foot surgery in December.

☐ Cedric Pioline, of France, beat Kenneth Carlsen, of Denmark, 6-2, 7-6 in the final of the ATP men's tennis tournament in Copenhagen yesterday.

Time-trial triumph

CYCLING: Chris Boardman won the final time-trial but could not prevent Laurent Jalabert, of France, from claiming overall victory in the Paris-Nice classic yesterday. Jalabert beat Lance Armstrong, of the United States, by 43 seconds in the week-long, 828-mile race with Boardman, who clocked 21min 16sec over the concluding 12.5-mile time-trial to Antibes, a further four seconds behind in third place.

Horner falls in final



SQUASH: Suzanne Horner, right, of Wakefield, yesterday failed to capitalise on defeating the world champion, Michelle Martin, of Australia, for the first time in the semi-finals of the Abshot Women's Open at Abshot Country Club on Saturday. Horner, 33, who beat Martin 9-5, 2-9, 9-5, 9-6 in 42 minutes, lost in straight sets 9-4, 9-4, 9-1 to Sarah FitzGerald, the Australian world No 2, in the final yesterday.

Wasps win again

ICE HOCKEY: At the halfway stage of the British championship play-offs, Durham Wasps are the only team with a 100 per cent record after their 3-2 win over Cardiff Devils. Basingstoke Bison top their group, having dropped only one point in three games, but Sheffield Steelers are the form team. Their 8-0 win over Nottingham Panthers saw Wayne Cowley gain his second successive shutout.

Eight lead the way

ROWING: The Great Britain squad eight, stroked by Miriam Batten, the world championship bronze medal-winner, stormed to a conclusive victory in the Women's Head on Saturday. Starting first of the 237 crews, the internationals moved steadily away from the starting pack and finished just ten seconds outside the record, in spite of rowing into a headwind in the final mile.

Perry springs surprise

TABLE TENNIS: Alex Perry, 19, of Crediton, sprang a big surprise in the second round of the men's singles at the English national championships in Brighton yesterday, beating Desmond Douglas 19-21, 21-17, 21-16, 21-17 to reach the quarter-finals. However, Perry was then himself beaten in the semi-finals by Alan Cooke, who went on to challenge Carl Prean in the final.

Snow retains title

REAL TENNIS: Julian Snow retained the British Land National amateur championship when he beat Mark Howard 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 in the final at Hampton Court. Snow won the first set comfortably before Howard found his length on the lively court. Howard reached 4-4 in the second and third sets, only for Snow to raise his game, reduce his errors and lay several ultra-short chases to clinch the title.



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Richards inspires drive to championship after Carling's departure through injury

Rebuilt England enjoy home rule


ROGER PARKER

Sleightholme completes his powerful run by sliding in for the try that crowned England's victory over Ireland and their five nations' championship campaign

England	28
Ireland	15

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE praise for England's five nations' championship season may be littered with provisos but the achievement is very real. They started amid a sense of anti-climax engendered by the World Cup last summer and ended at Twickenham on Saturday as triple-crown winners and, courtesy of Wales, championship winners to boot.

Those who denigrate their success look at their championship aggregate of 79 points and say that 64 came from Paul Grayson's kicking skills. England scored a mere three tries, compared with ten by France, six each by Wales and Ireland, and five from Scotland, who were relegated to second place on points difference.

Yet listen to Murray Kidd on the subject of England's championship. "They have been much maligned for the way they have played the game," the Ireland coach said. "They had a difficult match with France, which they lost. Wales are on the up and, as a coach, I would have been pleased to have read the tactics in the Scottish game as well as England did.

"If we had had a win like that, we would have been ecstatic. They are a very strong side and, in my opinion, have been criticised unfairly. There is a certain amount of arrogance in people thinking that England should win comfortably playing pretty rugby. There are no easy-beats in the championship."

If Ireland do not renew Kidd's contract in the summer, then Jack Rowell might have him as a media relations officer. At no stage this season have England found, or been able to create, the space they need to play an expansive game, and there is no dishonour in then reverting to a style that wins matches. From such victories confidence comes and builds such players as Lawrence Dallaglio and Jon Sleightholme, the England discoveries of the season.

Sleightholme's try, with only three minutes remaining, was important to the team to reinforce its belief in the art of the possible. It was the highlight of a season which, for no country, has been entirely satisfactory and in that respect the denouement on Saturday was appropriate, a mixture of might and mediocrity before the news from Cardiff left England holding all the available prizes.

The fact remains that England have become the reference point for the championship, still ahead of France despite the defeats in Paris in January and Pretoria six months earlier. That makes for a certain tension which is hardly creative when six players are finding their feet in the international arena and, in this instance, against an Ireland team which looked as well organised as most of the past few years.

Dean Richards, whose judgment on such matters is sound, believes this to be one of the most improved Ireland teams he has played against. They have concentrated specifically on buttoning up their midfield defence, and on their lineout, and it showed as England threw themselves into a game of movement which, while welcome, was far too lateral.

No one was more to the fore than Will Carling, in his 59th and final match as England captain, battering vainly against a swath of green at a time when a degree more pragmatism was required. There were slightly disturbing echoes of England's tactics in the 1991 World Cup final, in the desperate desire to blaze a running trail against committed opponents and a referee disinclined to allow advantage.

England's handling skills were not up to it and, when Carling departed the scene prematurely with torn ankle ligaments, which have ended his season, Ireland led 15-9 and were good value for the lead. The emergence of Jeremy Davidson and the discovery of David Humphreys have given them both a ball-winner and an organiser; the addition of Simon Mason has given them a points accumulator who is, on the form of Saturday, in the Ollie Campbell mould.

Four penalty goals out of four, kicked with the air of a man in control of his temperament, suggest Mason is set for a long international career. Yet his average was all but matched by Grayson, who missed only one kick at goal out of eight and who showed himself to be a thinking player, capable of taking gaps.

The pressure on the kicker is even more intense when he is striving to bring his team level, as Grayson was for 46 minutes. With Carling's departure, the strategy passed into the hands of Richards. Catch-and-drive were the watchwords, the policy built around Martin Johnson and the improving Garath Archer, and the Irish were worn down.

It is not subtle but it is English to the core and, in a European dimension, it works. The greatest compliment to England's style is that the French borrowed it to beat them before losing their way; England might have made this game safe well before Sleightholme, from the blindside wing, took Grayson's pass and flew like an arrow into the left-hand corner.

One similar run by the Bath wing had ended with a knock-on and a threatening lineout success by Johnson five metres from the Ireland line was stopped so that England could receive a penalty. By full time both Carling, and England's supporters, could depart the scene satisfied.

SCORERS: England: Try: Sleightholme. Conversion: Grayson Penalty goals: Grayson (6). Dropped goal: Grayson Ireland: Penalty goals: Mason (4) Dropped goal: Humphreys

ENGLAND: M J Catt (Bath); J M Sleightholme (Bath), W D C Carling (Harlequins, captain), J C Guscott (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester/RAF); P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton); G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), B B Clarke (Bath), M O Johnson (Leicester), G S Archer (Bristol/Army), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps), D Richards (Leicester). Carling replaced by P R de Glanville (Bath, 35mn); Dallaglio temporarily replaced by T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army, 29-31).

IRELAND: S J P Mason (Orrell), S P Geoghegan (Bath), J C Bell (Northampton), M J Field (Malone), N K P J Woods (Blackrock College); D G Humphreys (London Irish), N A Hogan (Terenure College, captain); N J Popplewell (Newcastle), A T H Clarke (Northampton), P S Wallace (Blackrock College), D S Corkery (Cork Constitution), G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution), J W Davidson (Dungannon), W D McBride (Malone), V C P Costello (St Mary's College). Field replaced by C M McCall (Bangor, 20).

Referee: E Murray (Scotland)

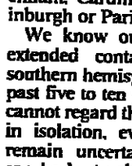
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FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	3	0	1	79	54	6
Scotland	4	3	0	1	60	56	6
France	4	2	0	2	89	57	4
Wales	4	1	0	3	82	82	2
Ireland	4	1	0	3	65	106	2

RESULTS: France 15 England 12, Ireland 10 Scotland 16, England 21 Wales 15, Scotland 19 France 14, France 45 Ireland 10, Wales 14 Scotland 16, Ireland 30 Wales 17, Scotland 9 England 18, England 28 Ireland 15, Wales 16 France 15.

Positive signs of progress in difficult season



Rob Andrew finds much to encourage him at the end of the five nations' championship

The argument over the significance of the five nations' championship in global rugby terms will continue, never more so than now, with the competition that ended on Saturday coming at a time when we are seeing, via television, the first fruits of the new Super 12 tournament in the southern hemisphere.

Our horizons must remain global. We can learn from what we see in the southern hemisphere so long as we take the best of it and adapt it to the strengths of home unions rugby. Much of that has to do with the mental approach to the game but, at the same time, we must protect what we have.

The five nations' is a magnificent tournament. You have only to listen to someone like Nick Farr-Jones, the former Australia captain who, for years, watched it from afar. Now he has witnessed the tournament first hand, he appreciates that it is a vital part of the northern hemisphere winter, and not just for 80 minutes of rugby in Twickenham, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh or Paris.

We know ourselves, after extended contact with the southern hemisphere over the past five to ten years, that we cannot regard the tournament in isolation, even though I remain uncertain how that can be best achieved. We do need to break down the insular nature of the tournament and take the standard of play forward and, this season, there have been positive signs.

Wales have taken significant steps towards a flowing game. Scotland, too, have built on their traditional strengths. Despite their lowly position in the table, Ireland have put some building blocks in place for the next few years, while the French, with so much talent, have done what only the French can do, chopping and changing and emerging with disappointment after beginning so well.

But the home unions have progressed, including England — despite their critics. To be champions of Europe is no small feat, particularly for six players in their first season, and nobody should underestimate what that will mean to the development of this team. It took Rory Underwood and me eight years before we could say as much, which only shows how far England have progressed in terms of their own achievements as well as public expectation.

In what has been a difficult season, some young players have come through. They know they have to improve, and a professional atmosphere will help them do so. In no particular order I have been particularly delighted with the play of Gregor Townsend, David Humphreys and Leigh Davies.

There may be question marks over aspects of Townsend's play, but he is such a talented footballer that you have to look at his positive qualities. Humphreys is a super player and his thoughtful approach is sure to serve Ireland well, while Davies, only 19, has all the attributes of the player of the future: pace, power and a sure touch on the ball.

If I mention Lawrence Dallaglio, from England, it is not just because he is from Wasps, my former club. Athletic, big and skilful, Dallaglio has been attracting attention for some years, and now we can see him growing in stature.

None of these players is the finished article. They must be given guidance as professional rugby develops, and their own ambitions will carry them onwards. They are typical of the talent we possess in the northern hemisphere: they must not be wasted.

Emotional lid stays firmly sealed



ANDREW LONGMORE
At Twickenham

The posse in the East Stand could contain themselves no longer. Largely absorbed by England's twin attempts to subdue the Irish and the boo-boys (the priorities switched once it became clear the men in green were serious), they kept their passions dry until the final whistle had blown. Then, as the captain nobly hobbled up the Twickenham steps to receive the pint-sized trophy for what Jack Rowell would have us believe was a quart-sized achievement, a steady torrent of affection gushed from the £35 seats. "Deano, Deano."

That is the thing about Will Carling. Even after the most successful captaincy career in England rugby union history, after two grand slams and 59 internationals, he still has not crossed the threshold that divides respect from love. With Dean Richards, what you see is what you get, like Bill Beaumont. But no one is sure about Carling. He is rugby's Mr Darcy, too good by half, yet with a faint whiff of the bounder about him.

True, he was given a hearty ovation as he ran on to the field, left to it by the rest of his team, who hung back in the tunnel; true, he was given a hearty ovation 34 minutes later when all he could see from the stretcher were the grey skies above Twickenham. But there was a strangely choreographed, almost dispassionate air to the reception. Like a school speech day, with Carling the star pupil who wins all the prizes. The applause died down quite quickly. Achievement was being honoured, not personality.

To be fair to him, Carling did nothing to heighten the hype. The gist of his last team talk was 'Never mind me, let's win the game', which was much what he had been saying all week to the press. If emotions were boiling inside him, the lid was well sealed.

Everything about the day had been "amazing", he said, particularly the result and the unexpected crowning glory of the five nations' championship. Who else but Carling could talk of winning the championship not being a "viable option" beforehand? This is the language of the boardroom not the playing field, apt perhaps, given that the dividing line between the two has become perilously thin during Carling's 7½-year reign as captain (minus a day or two for the "57 old farts" affair), but suspicious nonetheless. Richards would no more talk of viable options than he would countenance defeat.

So how to assess Carling the captain? He has passed the first rule — he has been lucky. Lucky in having strong men around him, men like Brian Moore and Richards, who could steady the ship and administer verbal keelhaulings when required. Though quite capable of impassioned oratory himself, Carling's skill was to let them do it.

On Saturday, during a torrid opening, the pack huddled round Richards to receive their orders, while Carling sat on his haunches ten yards away. Delegation, good captaincy or admission of waning influence?

Carling's on-field style has always leant more towards the quiet word, the quick slap on the back, than the clenched fist. But there have been times this season when, mentally, his badge had already been handed in.

Mixed up in the sub-plots on Saturday was the issue of the next captain. The king is dead (or at least being made a cup of tea by his mother in the treatment room), long live the king. If Richards was the decisive voice in bringing the English pack to heel, Lawrence Dallaglio advertised his claims with a performance of enormous skill and commitment, while Martin Johnson, profiting at last from some decent lineout service from his hooker, did no harm to his chances either.

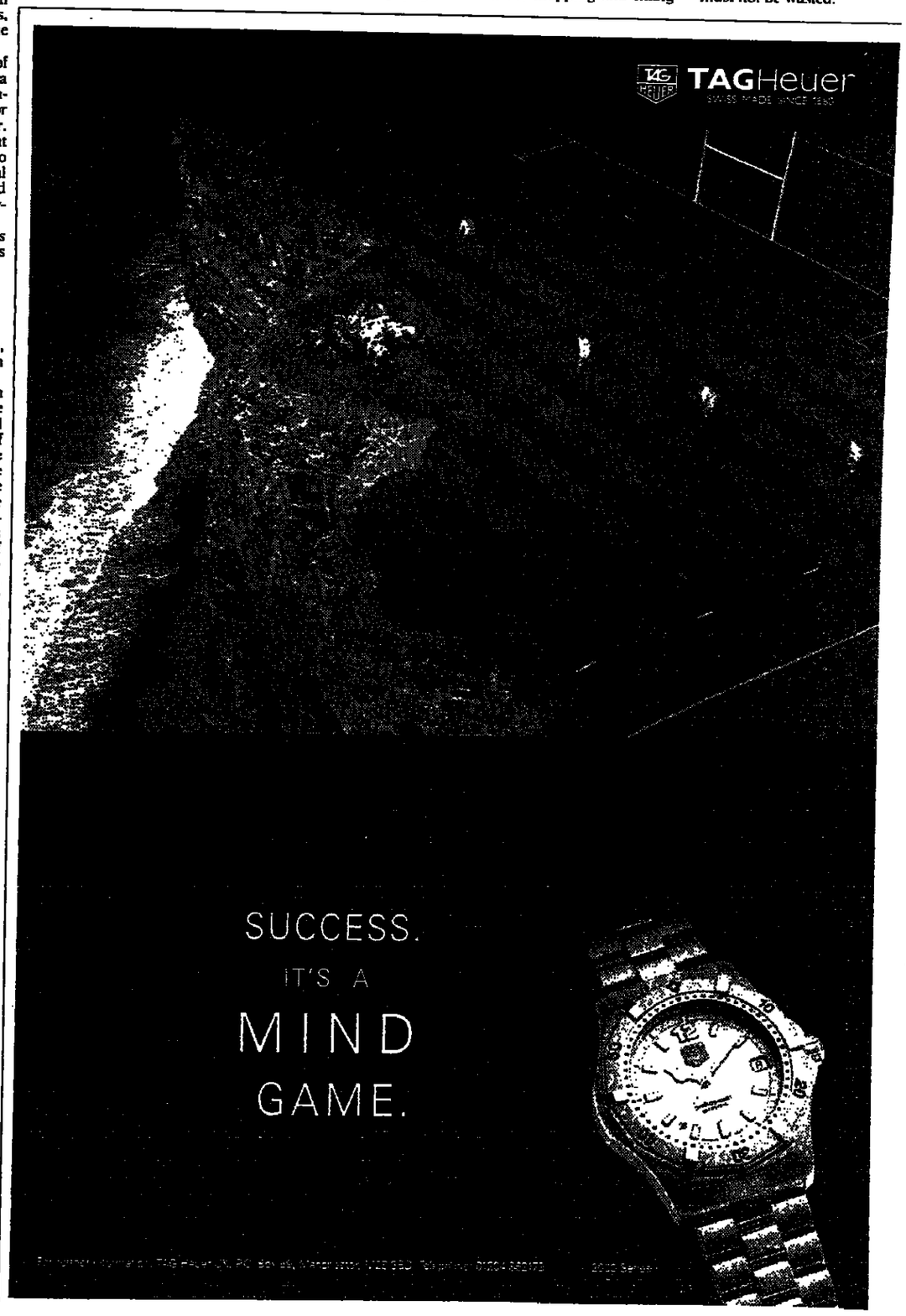
It was noticeable that both of them — along with Sleightholme, the try-scorer — gave their captain a rather more effusive farewell at the top of the steps than the peremptory handshake offered by old stagers like Guscott and Leonard. For sure, some in the England team will not be sad to see the end of an era.

The lingering question, not least on the lips of the man himself, is whether that will be the end of Carling the player as well as captain Carling. Rowell, the England manager, believes Carling is playing as well as ever, not a view, it has to be said, borne out by the 33 minutes of the Ireland match. It might be best, for the new captain as much as anyone, for the curtain to come down for good.

"Eight good years," was Carling's description of his tenure. "I hope we've given the fans something to cheer," he said. And boo, from time to time. An England team without Carling as captain, Rowell added, would be like Trafalgar Square without Nelson. Carling's ultimate success is also enshrined in stone, or rather the concrete of the towering new stands at Twickenham.


IAN STEWART

Carling feels the pain of a farewell cut short by injury



Southampton undone by Kinkladze's defining moment



Kinkladze: brilliant goal

Peter Ball on the artistry and acrimony that accompanied Manchester City's triumph

Southampton must be heartily sick of Manchester, and the referees whom they meet there. Unluckily knocked out of the FA Cup at Old Trafford last Monday, when Neil Shipperley had an apparently good goal disallowed, they were no more fortunate at Maine Road on Saturday, losing 2-1 to Manchester City as an equaliser deep into injury time was ruled out and their substitute, Gordon Watson, was sent off for the force of his protests.

Watson's dismissal reflected Southampton's disappointment after they had controlled the second half and were left with nothing from a vital game for both clubs. It has been a bad week for Southampton, who are now in the third relegation place in the FA Carling Premiership, and a good week for City, whose four points have given them a margin for error. Yet, if Southampton felt hard done by, when their resentment has cooled they might acknowledge that they were beaten by the goal of the season — or any other season — from Georgi Kinkladze.

Early in the campaign, when Kinkladze had run the game against Leeds United, a senior Leeds professional, with typical British suspicion of genius, and of foreigners, had questioned how Kinkladze would survive a hard season of tough, physical challenge, particularly in a struggling team. On Saturday, he got his answer.

Kinkladze showed that genius can flourish even in barren soil, scoring both goals. If the first was a tap-in after Beasant had parried Clough's shot, the second was sheer fantasy, with three or four defenders left tackling thin air as he weaved through to face Beasant. The finish matched the approach, a little chip mixing cheek and artistry in equal proportions. The goal brought the crowd to its feet as one, and kept the atmosphere buzzing with excitement.

Genius has been defined as "an infinite capacity for taking pains". In Kinkladze's case, that is true. "After the Newcastle [United] game, when everyone was raving about what a great player he was, he watched the video four or five times, picking holes in his own performance, saying 'I should have scored here, or there', and working out where he could have done better," Francis Lee, the City chairman, said. "That just shows what a fantastic kid he is. He's a great player, but he still wants to learn."

Days were when such excellence might have inspired Le Tissier to emulation. Not now. On Saturday, Le Tissier's most telling thrust came on the coach home, when he picked up his mobile phone to tell David Mellor, the host of the *Six-O-Six* radio programme, that he was lighter than a year ago, rather than two stone heavier as a newspaper article had suggested.

Le Tissier's indignant denial was the only comment from Southampton after the game. Dave Merrington, the manager, refusing to say a word before shepherding his players onto the coach and away. Perhaps he had just seen enough of Manchester; perhaps he was afraid that he might use un-Christian language if he gave his views on the final ten minutes.

It was a pity that Watson had not shown similar reticence. Even from the press box, there could be little doubt that he was guilty of using foul or abusive language, giving Jeff Winter little option but to produce the red card.

Referees are not always wrong, and Winter's decision to rule out Robinson's equaliser was not necessarily wrong, either. Robinson, who came between two defenders, was not offside, but the flag had been up against Shipperley at the far post for a few seconds.

Southampton protested that, under the new guidelines, he was not involved in the play, but that seems a specious argument. If a forward who is positioning himself for a cross which then comes in is not involved in play, who is?

Where Winter had erred was in the sudden flurry of cards as Southampton sought their equaliser in the heated final minutes, after Tisdale's goal had given them hope. City, too, suffered in that flurry, Flitcroft's booking condemning him to his third suspension of the season. "If we'd got as many points as Flitcroft, we'd be heading for Europe," Alan Ball, the City manager, said. Merrington probably did not appreciate the humour.

MANCHESTER CITY (3-5-1-1): E Immel — K Symons, I Brightwell, K Curle — N Summerbee, S Lomas (sub: N Quinn, 75min), G Flitcroft, G Kinkladze, M Frontzeck (sub: S Hiley, 75) — N Clough — U Rosler

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): D Beasant — A Nelson (sub: G Watson, 56), R Hall, K Monkou, S Charlton — J Dodd, D Hughes, P Tisdale, M Oakley (sub: M Robinson, 46) — M Le Tissier, N Shipperley.

Referee: J Winter.

Stubbs out to rescue Bolton

Coventry City 0
Bolton Wanderers 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

TALES of the unexpected at Highfield Road: as if the appearance before the game of the legendary Hungary international, Ferenc Puskas, was not surprising enough, there was the strange sight of *Bolton Wanderers* securing their third successive away win in the FA Carling Premiership. And who would have anticipated two goals from their captain, Alan Stubbs?

After the summer of discontent last year and rumours of impending moves to more glamorous surroundings, even the fact that Stubbs is still with Bolton has raised a few eyebrows. Once regarded as a new Alan Hansen, he is now filling an unfamiliar midfield role in a system adopted after a frank exchange of opinions between team and management.

"They asked us what we thought," Stubbs said. "Everyone had a point of view — a constructive one. We've changed our formation and up to now it's paying dividends. All credit to them for listening."

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said: "We have players who are playing in positions they don't really like, but they're doing jobs for the team and we looked organised and are beginning to show resilience."

Resilience was a necessary quality as Coventry City had the better of the first hour. Driven forward by Williams's energy in midfield, they threatened without testing Branagan, apart from Dublin's looping header that required an acrobatic save. Even while Coventry pressed forward, however, the warnings were there as the wandering Curcic looked for openings on the break, and Blake hit the outside of a post from Sellars's precise cross.

Then a corner, needlessly conceded by Daish, was headed down by Coleman into the path of Stubbs on the edge of the penalty area. He had all the time he needed to size up a volley that seemed to pass about 20 players on its way in to the net. Coventry replied with a shot by Jess, which was well saved, and one by Salako, which he wastefully struck over the bar, before Stubbs tried his luck again. Only Ogrizovic will know how it beat him.

For once, the Coventry attack had no answer. Ron Atkinson, their manager, is fond of saying that nobody leaves Coventry games before the final whistle, but with opportunities wasted by Dublin, Salako and Jess, people started for the exits. Goodness knows what Puskas made of it all. Perhaps he, too, had left.

Despite this result, which Atkinson described as "disastrous", Bolton are still bottom of the table, but the gap is narrowing. "The fight will go on," Todd said. "There is not a lot of pressure on us because no one expects us to stay up, but the belief is there, among the players and myself."

Stubbs agreed. "Even before we started getting results, we thought we had a chance," he said. "Sometimes teams have had to win so many games and they've done it. Who knows? You wouldn't have said we were going to win three away games, would you?"

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — B Borrows, R Shaw, L Daish, D Burrows — J Salako, E Jess, P Williams, P Ndlovu (sub: G Strachan, 65min) — N Whelan, D Dublin

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): K Branagan — G Bergsson, C Fairclough, S Coleman, J Phillips — S Green, A Stubbs, S Sellars, M Patterson — S Curcic — N Blake (sub: F de Freitas, 86)

Referee: K Burge

Weakened Chelsea unable to halt momentum of Liverpool's challenge

Hoddle ploy beaten by boldness of mavericks

Liverpool 2
Chelsea 0

BY MARK HODKINSON

HE'S got the gum chewing just about right, not to mention the baggy nylon jacket worn exclusively by football managers and the cast of *Brookside*. The gestures are also spot-on — an upturned palm supporting the chin in moments of crisis and a line that appears on his forehead when Chelsea are under pressure. Glenn Hoddle, the gilded footballer and occasional pop singer, is no more. Instead there is Hoddle the manager, and he is as authentic as they come.

Anfield is the place where managers come of age. It is the football equivalent of a game of chess with Kasparov, with the added complication of 40,000 spectators trying to put you off each move. Hoddle resolved to hold a mirror to Liverpool. He figured that the perfect symmetry of tactical layout, complete with three centre backs, would nullify the red octopus that is Liverpool on their day. It was a novel approach, but without his best player, Gullit, and facing football mavericks like McManaman and Collymore, the ploy was hopeful rather than guaranteed.

"You come to Anfield and you know you are going to have a hard game," Hoddle said. "We got it right tactically. They found it hard to break us down. I think we were poor at not hitting them on the break. We were in the game until they got their second goal."

The first half had an atmosphere of despondency, almost as if the large crowd was pining for the missing skills of Gullit. He had been set to provide a tantalising cameo. He is among a clutch of players not in a Liverpool shirt with the ability to fall into his own time-space within a football match. He was back in London with flu, wrapped up warm no doubt, while the rest of us shivered on a dank afternoon in Merseyside.

At least Collymore and McManaman had the will to shake off the langour. McManaman shot crisply for Hitchcock to save before Collymore took the ball with his left foot, set it up for his right, and slammed it against the crossbar.

Chelsea harried and covered every space with enthusiasm but Hughes was often marooned in attack, despite the best efforts of Peacock and Spencer to support him. In basic terms, Hughes was the battering ram to prise open Liverpool's three-man fortress across their penalty area. He clearly did not have the equanimity for such an uneven skirmish. He put in several heedless tackles and received a booking before Hoddle wisely withdrew him.

The goal so badly required came soon after half-time when Wright ambled upfield and found himself deep in the Chelsea penalty area. Scales, another wandering centre back, kept the ball in play on the flank before passing to Barnes. He floated it to the far post and Wright showed more intent than the Chelsea defenders as he claimed it as his own.

Spencer responded with a brazen chip over the head of James from a good distance. James, as he is prone, supplied a beaming smile to his outfield players after he had retrieved the ball from the top of his net, but it was born chiefly from relief. Duberry flashed a shot wide before the game was irredeemably finished by Liverpool.

Collymore ran at Chelsea, forced it through to McAteer and he crossed to Fowler. The journey from Fowler's forehead to the net might have been measured with a slide-rule, such was its accuracy. It was the finish of a prodigy and, inevitably, it brought forward the comparison with the legend on the substitutes' bench, Ian Rush. In Rush's first 100 games for Liverpool he scored 61 goals. Fowler's appearance against Chelsea was his hundredth and his tally is 62.

Chelsea, drawn into a more enterprising approach, now left their defensive bastion. Petrescu shot straight at James when clear, and Spencer had an effort kicked from the line by Scales after James had dallied with a clearance.

Job done, Liverpool left the pitch to learn that Queens Park Rangers were ahead against Manchester United. Four minutes later, and another goal from the irrepressible Cantona, and Liverpool were two points adrift of United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. Touching distance, perhaps, and with Newcastle United still to visit Anfield.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): D James — M Wright, J Scales, S Harkness — J McAteer, M Thomas, J Barnes, R Jones — S McManaman — R Fowler, S Collymore.

CHELSEA (3-5-2): K Hitchcock — M Duberry, D Lee, S Clarke — D Petrescu, C Burley, D Wise, G Peacock, T Phelan — J Spencer, M Hughes (sub: P Furlong, 71min)

Referee: S Dunn

DAVE KENDALL



Harkness, the Liverpool defender, manages to evade the two-footed attentions of Hughes, Chelsea's lone striker

Shearer thrives on ideal delivery

Tottenham Hotspur 2
Blackburn Rovers 3

BY IVO TENNANT

A HAT-TRICK to his name and another match-ball secreted among his luggage, Alan Shearer held court in the *mizzling rain at White Hart* Lane and spoke about the kind of through-pass he favours. The one, for instance, which Chris Sutton, an 86th-minute substitute, provided in injury time, when their manager would have been more than content with a draw.

Over Shearer's shoulder the ball dropped, onto that unerring right foot. Two Tottenham Hotspur defenders gave him sufficient leeway to take the ball in his stride. A goalkeeper as competent as Walker, prepared to stand up as long as possible before committing himself one way or the other, was quite defenceless to counter the shot that followed.

This was Shearer's fifth hat-trick and 34th goal of the season. He has not missed a League match for Blackburn Rovers since September 1993, an astonishing feat considering how tightly marked and severely buffeted he is from week to week. Give him some space, as Tottenham did to the chagrin of their manager, Gerry Francis, and he will finish the game off.

All three of his goals emanated from running with the ball into or towards the Tottenham penalty area. First, he was brought down from behind by Calderwood and scored with the ensuing spot kick. Then he left Nethercott behind him and found the one corner of goal that Walker could not cover, as was the case in injury time.

Sutton's through-ball, admittedly a hopeful one, fell directly into Shearer's stride. The central defence, makeshift on account of injury and chickenpox, was nonplussed. It is the accuracy of Shearer's angled shots on the run that makes his finishing so crushingly effective and Walker again had no answer.

When Blackburn won the championship last year, Shearer collected 37 goals. He is about to improve on that achievement, even though, as he sarcastically put it, "we have had a disastrous season and we are sixth in the table". They might even be able to compete in Europe again, which is likely to be more to the benefit of Shearer than to the game itself.

Like Blackburn, Tottenham were suffering from the absence of key players, but they were affected even more by their elimination from the FA Cup the previous week. A better way of deciding these ties than penalty shoot-outs, Francis opined on behalf of his players, would be for away goals to count double. This view, he emphasised, he held before Tottenham had been knocked out by Nottingham Forest.

The two Tottenham players still looking the part were Sheringham and Armstrong, who took their close-range goals with the same assurance as Shearer. Francis would not be drawn on how complementary they would be at a higher level, preferring on this occasion to dwell at length instead on the failings of his own defenders.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood (sub: J Cundy, 19min), S Nethercott, J Edinburgh — R Fox, D Howells, C Wilson, A Sinton — D Sheringham, C Armstrong

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — H Berg, C Hendry, C Coleman, J Kenna — G Fenton (sub: C Sutton, 85), N Marker, W McKimlay, K Gallacher — A Shearer, M Newell

Referee: P Durkin

Full results and league tables ..... Page 28

Wright talks in riddles

Wimbledon 0
Arsenal 3

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

AFTER a week of turmoil at Highbury, of rumour and counter-rumour, fact and fiction, it was quite reasonable to debate at Selhurst Park on Saturday who possessed the crazier Crazy Gang? Who was the more guilty of bizarre behaviour, with scant consideration for the ordinary supporter, and who was indulging in enough covert operations to shame MI5?

Was it Arsenal, that great club from north London, which has been plagued by scandal and intrigue in recent years yet persists in parading its self-inflicted wounds? Or was it Wimbledon, that humble club from south London, which has tormented its elitist rivals for ten seasons yet now, at last, may be about to bid them farewell?

In the FA Carling Premiership, a mad, mad world within a mad, mad world, it is relatively easy to be kept informed about what is going on. However, to comprehend the assorted soap operas and sub-plots therein can require an honours degree in psychology or the paranormal.

Why, for example, has Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, not signed his contract, nine months into the job? Why has he fallen out with Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, and also, apparently, David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman? And why does Wright, at 32, want to the leave a club for which he has scored 141 goals in 210 appearances?

Supporters are entitled to answers — they pay large chunks of the colossal wages — but, invariably, receive only a series of platitudes. On Saturday, Rioch revealed his delight with the result and his pleasure at the performance. However, when gently queried about the internal rumblings at Highbury, he said: "I don't really want to talk about that. Ian played his part in a good victory."

Wright was more forthcoming, as befits his frequently indiscreet nature. Again, though, his words set more riddles. "I played my usual game, it's the only way I know how," he said. "I always give everything. I never like to disappoint or short-change anyone." Presumably, it was a veiled reference to his attitude having been questioned.

"I thought my transfer request would be turned down but it doesn't really change anything. I've still got some problems in that respect. I'll concentrate on playing and see what happens at the end of the season. The fans gave me a great reception and were very supportive. Whatever the outcome, I'm sure they'll understand." Presumably, it was a hint that he wants away during the summer.

Wright was one of nine forwards, deployed in various guises, playing on Saturday, yet the first half was lifeless. Thankfully, it picked up after the interval, with Arsenal shredding the Wimbledon cover with ease. Wright, Bergkamp and Hartson flitted everywhere, prompting Rioch marvel justifiably at his players' growing confidence and invention.

Winterburn tapped in the first goal on the hour. Platt's 25-yard drive was deflected past Sullivan six minutes later, and a shot from Bergkamp slithered under Sullivan near the end. Arsenal continue to push for Europe, despite their internal strife, and Wimbledon continue to slip towards the Endsleigh Insurance League, despite their traditional cussedness. Yet what lurks behind the scenes is anybody's guess.



Wright: indiscreet

WIMBLEDON (3-4-3): N Sullivan — D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble — K Cunningham, V Jones, M Harford (sub: J Goodman, 59min), R Earle — E Ekoku, D Holdsworth (sub: A Thorn, 81), M Gayle

ARSENAL (3-4-1-2): D Seaman — M Keown, A Linighan, S Marshall — L Dixon, D Platt, P Merson, N Winterburn — D Bergkamp — J Hartson, I Wright

Referee: D Gallagher

Pleat plots escape route

Sheffield Wednesday 2
Aston Villa 0

BY KEITH PIKE

CROATIA, Portugal and the European championship finals can wait. For now it is the prospect of Crewe Alexandra, Port Vale and the Endsleigh Insurance League that is clouding the horizons of Hillsborough's regulars: a summer football feast followed by a threatened diet of dross. Sheffield Wednesday — stadium, supporters, set-up — seem capable of so much more.

This victory over Aston Villa on Saturday, deserved and welcome though it was, will fool nobody, not least David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, who knows more than most about the rigours of a relegation campaign. "One tiny swallow in the middle of what has been a very long winter," was how he described it and, as if to emphasise the point, snow continued to cascade outside.

Wednesday are certainly not out of the woods yet. Pleat will know much more about their prospects of survival in the FA Carling Premiership by teatime next Saturday, when his team follows up a midweek trip to Southampton with a visit to Bolton Wanderers. Six points against their fellow strugglers and they would, in all probability, be safe: two or less, and memories of 1990 will return to haunt them. Then, despite Ron Atkinson's protestations that it would not, could not, happen, Wednesday were relegated, a last-day home defeat by Nottingham Forest coupled with Luton Town's victory away to Derby County confirming the unthinkable.

Pleat, more pragmatic if still typically buoyant, at least recognises that Wednesday are in peril. Last week he spent £1.5 million on Jon Newsome, the Norwich City defender, and called for a "sleeves rolled up" response from the rest. He got it, along with a first clean sheet in 20 games, and three points after a run of six defeats in seven matches.

"There were no words, no diagrams, no tactics, just a group of players playing for each other," Pleat enthused. Not before time, he might have added.

Quite how a team of so many individual talents got itself into such a precarious position is a mystery. Walker, Sheridan, Degryse, Waddle and Hirst are among the most accomplished players in the Premiership, and the recent recruitment of the dashing Dutchman, Blinker, has added another string to Pleat's attacking bow. An abundance of skill, not enough heart? Perhaps. Certainly, Wednesday have been one of the softer touches this season. On Saturday, they were meaner, sharper, hungrier, and it allowed their ability to flourish.

But for Bosnich's reflexes, Wednesday would have been well clear long before Woods, Hirst and the goalscorer, Whittingham, combined to plunder the definitive Route One opener just before the hour, and, but for McGrath's magnificence in an otherwise hesitant defence, Villa might have been swamped thereafter. Hirst, starting and finishing the move, ended any doubts with an unstoppable header near the end.

As for Villa, this was one match too far in a season of so many big games and so many big performances. There was no appetite, no spark, and no doubt too many minds on the Coca-Cola Cup final next Sunday. On this occasion, perhaps, they can be excused. Pleat, and Wednesday, can still afford no such luxuries.



McGrath: magnificent

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-1-4-1): C Woods — S Nicol, J Newsome, D Walker, L Bracewell — J Sheridan — G Whittingham, M Dogaryo, M Pembridge (sub: G Hyde, 78min), R Blinker — D Hirst (sub: D Kowacovic, 88)

ASTON VILLA (3-4-1-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, P McGrath, R Scimeca (sub: J Joachim, 67) — G Charles, M Draper, A Townsend, A Wright — F Carr — D Yorke, S Milosevic

Referee: P Jones

United assume lead in title race thanks to Frenchman's late equaliser at Loftus Road

Cantona secures room at the top

Queens Park Rangers .. 1
Manchester United 1

By Oliver Holt

THE first time the ball flashed past the post, Eric Cantona just glared and puffed out his chest. When it happened again, he beat the air in frustration and ill-disguised disgust. On the third occasion that Manchester United missed a gilt-edged chance, he abandoned all restraint and screamed reproach at the culprit, Andy Cole. Then, when all seemed lost, he scored. If you want a job done properly, do it yourself.

The Frenchman has scored vital goals in three successive games now: the priceless volley against Newcastle United; the opener in the FA Cup tie against Southampton; and the stooping header on Saturday that took his team back to the top of the FA Carling Premiership for the first time in six months.

Cantona's performance at Loftus Road, when United and Queens Park Rangers got caught up in each other's dogfights and the title chasers got the kind of late break the relegation fighters would kill for, was modest by his own standards, but his equaliser, nearly three minutes into injury time, masked once again the great flaw that threatens United's championship hopes.

Their approach play is wonderful, full of invention and pinball passing. Their finishing, though, is often so woeful it seems that they do not want the fun to finish. Only their other great attribute, their bloody-mindedness, their refusal to accept defeat, rescued a point for them in the end.

"We should have been down the road by half-time," Alex Ferguson, their manager, said afterwards. "You cannot miss chances like that one-on-one with the keeper. It was not a good result for us. I'm disappointed. But my team deserved it in the end because they never gave up."

United came out through the gloom of a west London afternoon as though they were about to hurtle back to the top in style and extend their sequence of ten straight wins with a demolition job. They toyed with Rangers, who have now won only once in 12 games, so mercilessly in the first half, outclassed them so effortlessly, that you felt more contempt than pity for the home team's plight, deep in relegation trouble.

By the time it had finished, though, sympathies had been comprehensively transferred to the underdogs. It was an empty, unsatisfactory way for United to go ahead of their rivals from the North East on goal difference. If Newcastle beat West Ham United at St James' Park tonight and go three points clear with a game in hand, they will have regained the initiative.

For now, though, United gaze down at the foothills of the division from the summit. In the distance, they can just make out Rangers, only a point off the bottom after Bolton Wanderers' win against Coventry City, with the Endsleigh Insurance League looming large.

The home team clung on and clung on in the latter stages on Saturday, their supporters cheering wildly every time a United pass went astray or a home tackle thudded in, but when Cantona nodded in Giggs's swirling cross in the 93rd minute the dismay and despair on their faces seemed to indicate their fight is over.

It would have been less cruel if United had made their early dominance tell and destroyed the strugglers with a swagger. It was worse because they let them off the hook, let them think they had achieved an improbable escape and then dashed their hopes in an instant.

When Giggs turned Bardsley, his nominal marker, inside out before ten minutes had passed and rifled a shot at Sommer, one was ready to be entertained in awe by a team in its pomp. When Sommer saved from Beckham after Cantona's clever pass midway through the half, one was just glad United had not killed the game off too quickly.

When Giggs and Cantona carved the home defence open in the 27th minute to put McClair clean through, McClair poked the ball tamely at the goalkeeper and one thought it would be just a matter of time. Even when Giggs caused havoc down the left five minutes later and Cole slid his perfect cross wide of the post with the goal at his mercy, it should still have been a cakewalk.

But, after a dizzying solo run by Giggs had ended in another fine Sommer save and the goalkeeper blocked a fierce shot from Irwin with his legs, Rangers staggered into the sanctuary of half-time, brought Impey on for Quashie and the game turned. Impey closed down the space that Giggs had enjoyed and made some inroads of his own, providing passes and runs to free Sinclair.

Suddenly, Ferguson's decision to rest Sharpe and Butt by leaving them on the bench lost some of its appeal. United were pinned in their own half and, in the 63rd minute, Rangers showed them how to finish when they converted their first clear-cut chance. Dichio curling a shot beyond Schmeichel and Irwin heading it into his own net as he launched himself at the ball to try to deflect it wide.

That brought Sharpe and Butt into the action. Cole soon wasted another chance when he ran on to Cantona's header but allowed McDonald time to challenge him and knock the ball away. Right into the dying seconds, Rangers rebuffed United's advances, but when the praying and the impassioned whistling was at its height, they lost concentration for an instant and Cantona struck.

Ray Wilkins, the Rangers manager, was admirably candid and cheerful in the face of adversity, quick to praise his players' contributions. He reserved his only hint of bitterness for Robbie Hart, the referee, and his policy of stopping his watch whenever he thought Sommer was not sprinting to keep it in play. Wilkins was asked if he had ever come across anything similar before. "Only in the Super Bowl," he said.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-3): J Sommer — D Bardsley, A McDonald, S Yates, R Brevett — N Quashie (sub: A Impey, 45min), I Holloway, S Barker — D Dichio (sub: M Halsley, 90), K Gallen (sub: K Ready, 85), T Sinclair.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — G Neville, D May, S Bruce, D Irwin — D Beckham (sub: N Butt, 73), B McClair (sub: P Scholes, 59), R Keane, R Giggs — E Cantona — A Cole.
Referee: R Hart.



Cantona, whose goal earned Manchester United a point, shields the ball from Holloway, the Queens Park Rangers midfield player

Sunderland lacking in quality to match aspirations

Birmingham City 0
Sunderland 2

By David Maddock

IN THE land of the Endsleigh Insurance League, Margaret Thatcher is still Prime Minister, the Sinclair C5 is a viable mode of transport, and Graham Taylor holds huge promise as a manager. They are, it seems, operating in a mid-Eighties time warp.

Sadly, there isn't even the vulgar vitality of those days, if the evidence at St Andrew's yesterday was anything to go by. There is merely the depressing realisation that both teams are practising a tiresome mode of long ball football that was discredited some years ago.

Sunderland at least pursued their limited horizons with discipline and conviction, which was enough to earn the victory which put them on top of the table. They completely dominated a Birmingham City side who seemed to have no clear idea of their objectives — a reflection perhaps of the malaise that grips the club.

Sunderland's strength and determination has given them seven straight League wins, a postwar record, and their regimented, low-risk approach will surely earn them the grail of promotion to the FA Carling Premiership.

It will not keep them there though. The long ball doctrine has been rumbled, it is too one-dimensional for the big money sophisticates of the top flight. Sunderland deserved victory here, deserve promotion, but they do not possess enough guile for life at the top.

The ever-widening gulf is a dilemma facing every side to emerge from the Endsleigh time machine, solvable only by the injection of vast amounts of money. Sunderland simply do not have such resources, but they do reflect the professionalism of Peter Reid, their manager.

It is all long ball, hit early, and terribly unexciting, but it destroyed Birmingham. From the start the Wearsiders looked comfortable, a position enhanced by a sixteenth-minute goal. Ball crossed from the left, Melville produced the perfect dummy, and Agnew was clear to steer a crisp shot into the corner.

Stewart could have added a second goal, Melville had a header saved and Scott shot wide. Such superiority was confirmed after 64 minutes when Kubicki's cross found Melville at the far post. The header was emphatic.

Sunderland eased off towards the end, Reid confessing that the hard work is just about to begin: "It's nice to be top, but it's going to be very difficult to stay there." If they do manage to stay there, it will be even harder come the start of next season.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): B Gnernink — J Bass (sub: R Forsyth, 65min), G Breen, M Johnson, J Frain — J Hunt, V Samways (sub: I Richardson, 55), P Tait, A Le99 — P Devlin (sub: J Bowen, 65), P Barnes.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-3-2-1): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — S Gemmill (sub: S Howe, 80min), D Phillips, C Bart-Williams — P McGregor, C Allen — K Campbell.
Referee: A Wilkie (sub: A Butler 15).
SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): S Given — D Kubicki, A Melville, R Ord, M Scott — S Agnew, K Ball, P Bracewell, M Gray — C Russell (sub: M Bridges, 79), P Stewart (sub: P Gray, 82).
Referee: W Burns.

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Deane delivers point for Leeds

Leeds United 2
Everton 2

By Peter Ball

FOR the second Sunday running, Leeds United played hosts to the television cameras and visitors from Merseyside, and were happy to draw. There, though, the resemblance ended. Unlike the dour FA Cup-tie with Liverpool of eight days ago, there were four goals and incidents aplenty against Everton yesterday in an untidy but nonetheless positive match.

With half their first-choice side missing, Leeds could be content with a draw and, by the end, just about deserved it, even though their goal had enjoyed a charmed life in the first half. In that opening 45 minutes, Everton missed a penalty and Lukic made three excellent saves from close-range headers, leaving Everton to head for the dressing rooms at the interval trailing by the odd goal in three.

Kanchelskis soon corrected that anomaly four minutes into the second period, but that goal, instead of providing the basis for Everton to go on and win, merely provided a rallying point for Leeds, who enjoyed their fair share of the remaining 40 minutes.

Perhaps Leeds should play their youngsters more often. With Palmer at the back in place of the suspended Wetherall, Speed injured and McAllister rested with this week's cup matches — the replayed FA Cup-tie with Liverpool and then Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup final on Sunday — in mind, they had a very inexperienced midfield, yet they more than held their own, with Andy Gray showing rich promise down the wing once trodden with such distinction by his uncle, Eddie Gray.

Gray soon showed his ability when beating Hottiger with an ease that his uncle would have admired and he played his part when Leeds took the lead after seven minutes. His cross was laid by Brolin into the path of Deane and the forward's shot took a deflection off Unsworth to leave Southall helpless.

It took Everton just over 20 minutes to get back on terms. Kanchelskis cut across the face of the goal from right to left, exchanged passes with Limpar, gave the Swede the ball again and a perfectly-judged cross was headed home by Stuart from six yards. From then on, Everton took over completely. They might have gone ahead in another minute and should have done so within two.

First, Kelly's header back to his goalkeeper, though short of Lukic, gave Stuart an opening, but he shot into the side netting. Then Lukic just thwarted Ferguson, only for the ball to fall to Ebbrell. His shot was kicked off the line by Radabe, but the clearance ballooned upwards and then dropped to Ferguson, who was winding up for a volley when Couzens sent him crashing. The penalty was unarguable, but Hinchcliffe put it the wrong side of the post.

From then until half-time, Everton's next goal seemed only a matter of time, but Lukic defied them with excellent saves from Ebbrell and Short. Indeed, it was Leeds who scored. Tinkler took Kelly's throw-in on a burst that sent him past two defenders to the byline. He cut the ball back and Deane side-footed home his second goal.

With Limpar and Kanchelskis stretching the home defence, an equaliser was inevitable, but, as with so many of Everton's goals this season, it eventually came from a set-piece. A corner came out off Unsworth to Kanchelskis, whose low drive deflected off Ford and inside a post.

Leeds responded determinedly, held on with more comfort than they might have anticipated and although, at the close, Ferguson put a header wide and Limpar met Hottiger's cross with a volley that flew over, the Yorkshiremen deserved their draw rather more commendably than the one they had claimed a week earlier.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): J Lukic — J Pemberton, C Palmer, L Radebe, G Kelly — A Couzens (sub: R Wallace, 79min), M Ford, M Tinkler, A Gray — B Deane, T Brolin (sub: P Masinga, 87).
EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — M Hottiger, C Short, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe — A Kanchelskis, B Horne, J Ebbrell, A Limpar — G Stuart, D Ferguson.
Referee: G Ashby.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Manchester Utd	30	61	+27	WWWWD
2	Newcastle	29	61	+35	WWWLD
3	Liverpool	30	59	+34	WWWDW
4	Aston Villa	31	55	+16	WDWWL
5	Arsenal	30	51	+15	WWDWW
6	Everton	31	48	+14	LWWDD
7	Blackburn	31	48	+11	LLDWW
8	Tottenham	29	48	+5	DLWWL
9	Chelsea	31	44	+2	LWDDL
10	Nottm Forest	29	39	-1	LLLWD
11	West Ham	31	39	-4	WWLDW
12	Leeds	30	39	-7	LLWLD
13	Middlesbrough	31	34	-13	LDLLD
14	Sheffield Wed	30	31	-8	LLLLW
15	Manchester City	31	30	-21	DDLDW
16	Coventry	30	27	-18	WDDDL
17	Wimbledon	30	27	-19	LDDDL
18	Southampton	30	25	-14	DDLLL
19	QPR	31	23	-22	WDLLD
20	Bolton	30	22	-27	LWLWW

Weekly change: Up — Stayed the same — Down

Forest focused on job in hand

Middlesbrough 1
Nottingham Forest 1

By Pat Gibson

THE Brazilians on Saturday. The Germans tomorrow. They all seem to come the same to Nottingham Forest, whose ability to concentrate on the job in hand was quite exceptional just three days before they take on Bayern Munich at the City Ground in the second leg of their Uefa Cup quarter-final.

Even Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, who knows more than most about the resilience of the English professional footballer, thought that a battle-weary Forest would give his side their best chance of relaunching a season which has gone into free-fall with the worst sequence of results in the four years of the FA Carling Premiership, and which would be fatal had they not made such an outstanding start.

He was wrong. Robson had Juninho and Branco starting a match together for the first time while Forest were without their three most exciting talents, Roy, Stone and Woan. Yet, in the end, Middlesbrough were happy to settle for a point, which was as many as they had taken from their previous 11 matches.

"It is an awful cliché and I hate to use it," Frank Clark, the Forest manager, said, "but we really do have to take each game as it comes. We have not spoken about Bayern at all yet because we have not had time. This was our 47th game of the season and we have been playing twice a week almost continuously since Christmas. But the players keep going and they will be ready for Tuesday. Their character and commitment is remarkable."

Allen, on loan from Oxford United, put Forest ahead after 57 minutes but Middlesbrough equalised within a minute when Hendrie and Barmby combined effectively to set up Mustoe.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-1-2): G Walsh — N Cox, N Pearson, D Whyte, C Fleming — R Mustoe, Branco, J Pollock — Juninho — N Barmby, J Hendrie.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-3-2-1): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — S Gemmill (sub: S Howe, 80min), D Phillips, C Bart-Williams — P McGregor, C Allen — K Campbell.
Referee: A Wilkie (sub: A Butler 15).

Final task a piece of cake for Genoa

Port Vale 2
Genoa 5

By Alyson Rudd

MAKE no mistake, this game was very, very, big news in Italy. The Anglo-Italian Cup final was televised live and the nation tuned in, but then Genoa were the only Italian club to play this weekend after the players' strike wiped out the fixture list.

Genoa rose to the occasion and completely outplayed Port Vale. "We found it very easy to go forward and score goals," Jaetano Salvemini, the Genoa coach, said. They scored five and it could have been eight or nine. Port Vale must have been wondering why they saved their worst performance of the competition for Wembley.

The opening seconds gave a clear warning of what was to follow when Nappi surprised the Port Vale defence by springing forward onto a long pass from the kick-off and forcing Musselwhite to save desperately with his feet. Thirteen minutes into the match, Rutolo, the captain, gave Genoa the lead when he advanced unmarked towards the edge of the area, collected a clearance, and lofted the ball calmly over Musselwhite.

Port Vale's defending was sloppy and continued in that vein for most of the match. Galante stole in unmarked at the near post to head in Nappi's corner for Genoa's second goal, although the third was more spectacular. Montella scoring with an overhead kick.

Genoa were quick in the counter attack and quick to read Port Vale's ponderous thoughts. Ruotolo scored again nine minutes into the second half, Nappi teeing him up after his own shot had been parried. It was 5-0 after 66 minutes. Walker lost concentration and knocked the ball into Ruotolo's path, allowing him to complete his hat-trick. Foyle scored two consolation goals but there was no hope whatsoever of a comeback.

The Anglo-Italian Cup draws pitiful crowds and often produces violent matches, but if the competition is about improving relations between the two nations, the final itself was a success. Port Vale supporters were extremely generous in their appreciation of Genoa's skills, and in congratulating them on receiving the trophy.

PORT VALE (4-4-2): P Musselwhite — A Hill, G Griffiths, N Aspin, D Stokes (sub: R Walker, 37min) — J McCarthy, A Porter, I Bogie, S Guppy (sub: S Talbot, 87) — L Glover (sub: A Naylor, 60), M Foyle.
GENOA (5-3-2): L Pastine (sub: G Spagnulo, 75) — O Magoni, D Delli Carri, L Cavallo, F Galante, D Nicola (sub: J Van't Schip, 50) — R Onorati (sub: V Torrente, 46), M Bortolazzi, G Ruotolo — M Nappi, V Montella.
Referee: I Koho (Finland).

We're always

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

COVENTRY (0) 0 BOLTON (0) 2
17,226 Stubbs 66, 70

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, R Shaw, L Dalsh, D Burrows, J Salako, E Jess, P Williams, P Ndlovu (sub: G Strachan, 65min), R Whelan, D Dublin.
Booked: Burrows, Salako.
Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan, G Bergsson, C Fairclough, S Coleman, J Phillips, S Green, A Stubbs, S Sellars, M Pastelaines, S Carrick, N Blake (sub: F de Freitas, 80).
Booked: Green.
Referee: K Burge.

LIVERPOOL (0) 2 CHELSEA (0) 0
Wright 53
Fowler 62
40,830

Liverpool: D James, M Wright, J Scales, S Harkness, J McAteer, M Thomas, J Barnes, R Jones, S McManaman, R Fowler, S Collymore.
Booked: Collymore.
Chelsea: K Hitchcock, M Duberry, D Lee, S Clarke, D Petrescu, C Burley, D Wise, G Peacock, T Phelan, J Spencer, M Hughes (sub: P Furlong, 71min).
Booked: Hughes, Burley, Petrescu.
Referee: S Dunn.

MANCHESTER C (2) 2 SOUTHAMPTON (0) 1
Kinkladze 32, 37
Tisdale 64
29,550

Manchester City: E Immel, N Symons, I Brightwell, K Curle, N Summerbee, S Lomas (sub: N Quinn, 75min), G Flitcroft, G Kinkladze, M Frontzeck (sub: S Hiley, 75) — N Clough, D Rosler.
Booked: Flitcroft, Summerbee, Rosler, Clough.
Southampton: Q Bassant, A Nielsen (sub: G Watson, 56), R Hall, N Monkou, S Charlton, J Dodd, D Hughes, P Tisdale, M Oakley (sub: M Robinson, 46), M Le Tissier, N Shipperley.
Booked: Hall, Le Tissier, Charlton.
Sent off: Robinson (89).
Referee: J Winter.

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 1 NOTTM FOR (0) 1
Mustoe 57
Allen 56
29,382

Middlesbrough: G Walsh, N Cox, N Pearson, D Whyte, N Barmby, J Pollock, J Hendrie, R Mustoe, C Fleming, Juninho, Branco.
Booked: Whyte, Pollock, Branco.

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, K Campbell, S Gemmill (sub: S Howe, 78min), C Bart-Williams, P McGregor, C Allen.
Booked: Cooper, Gemmill, Howe, Allen.
Referee: A Wilkie.

QPR (0) 1 MANCHESTER UTD (0) 1
Impey 53 (og)
Cantona 90
18,617

Queens Park Rangers: J Sommer, D Bardsley, A McDonald, S Yates, R Brevett, M Ouaddie (sub: A Impey, 45min), I Holloway, S Barker, D Dichio (sub: M Hateley, 80), K Gallen (sub: K Ready, 85), T Sinclair.
Booked: Yates, Barker, Dichio.
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville, D May, S Bruce, D Irwin, D Beckham (sub: N Butt, 73), B McClair (sub: P Scholes, 59), R Keane, R Giggs, E Cantona, A Cole.
Booked: May, Cole.
Referee: R Hart.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 2 ASTON VILLA (0) 0
Whitworth 58
Hirst 87
22,964

Sheffield Wednesday: C Woods, S Nicol, J Newsome, D Walker, L Briscoe, J Sheridan, G Whittingham, M Degryse, M Pembridge (sub: G Hyde, 78min), R Bliimer, D Hirst (sub: D Kowacevic, 88).
Booked: Sheridan, Whittingham.
Aston Villa: M Bosnich, U Ehiogu, P McGrath, R Scimeca (sub: J Joachim, 67), G Charles, M Draper, A Townsend, A Wright, F Carr, D Yorke, S Milosevic.
Booked: Ehiogu, Carr.
Referee: P Jones.

TOTTENHAM (0) 2 BLACKBURN (2) 3
Sheringham 62
Armstrong 80
Shearer 5 (pen), 34, 90
32,387

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, C Calderwood (sub: J Cundy, 19min), S Nethercott, J Edinburgh, R Fox, D Howells, C Wilson, A Sinton, E Sheringham, C Armstrong.
Booked: Armstrong, Cundy.
Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, H Berg, C Hendry, C Coleman, J Kenna, G Fenton (sub: C Sutton, 85), N Marker, W McKimlay, K Gallacher, A Shearer, M Newell.
Booked: McKimlay.
Referee: P Durkin.

WIMBLEDON (0) 0 ARSENAL (0) 3
18,335
Winterburn 61
Platt 85 Bergkamp 83

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble, K Cunningham, V Jones, M Harford (sub: J Goodman, 59min), R Earle, E Ekoku, D Holdsworth (sub: A Thorn, 81), M Gayle.
Arsenal: D Seaman, M Keown, A Linighan, S Marshall, L Dixon, D Platt, P Merson, N Winterburn, D Bergkamp, J Hartson, I Wright.
Referee: D Gallagher.

Newcastle v West Ham (pools panel verdict: home win).

Yesterday

LEEDS (2) 2 EVERTON (1) 2
Deane 6, 45
Stuart 28 Kanchelskis 50
29,425

Leeds United: J Lukic, J Pemberton, C Palmer, L Radebe, G Kelly, A Gray, A Cousins (sub: R Wallace, 80min), M Tinkler, M Ford, B Deane, T Brolin (sub: P Medjoja, 87).
Booked: Tinkler.
Everton: N Southall, M Hottiger, C Short, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe, A Kanchelskis, B Horne, J Ebbrell, A Limpar, D Ferguson, G Stuart.
Booked: Short, Horne.
Referee: G Ashby.

TODAY

NEWCASTLE v WEST HAM

Darren Peacock's return has increased Kevin Keegan's variety as Newcastle United attempt to restore their championship fortunes. They have taken one point from three matches and observers believe problems have arisen with the expensive signings of Asprilla and Batty, disrupting balance of the side.

Keegan may restore Gillespie on the wing but it is hard to accomodate him with Asprilla, Ginola and Beardsley in the same team.

Rieper is fit to return to the West Ham defence and close down Ferdinand, who hasn't scored since Asprilla arrived.



Fowler: goal against Chelsea

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
Shearer (Blackburn)	28	5	1	34
Fowler (Liverpool)	25	5	0	30
Ferdinand (Newcastle)	21	4	0	25
Sheringham (Tottenham)	15	8	0	23
Yorke (Aston Villa)	15	7	0	22
Yeboah (Leeds)	12	4	3	19
Wright (Arsenal)	11	8	0	19
Armstrong (Tottenham)	10	7	0	17
Dublin (Coventry)	13	2	0	15
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	10	5	0	15
Collymore (Liverpool)	10	5	0	15
Holdsworth (Wimbledon)	9	6	0	15

PREMIERSHIP HAT-TRICKS

ALAN SHEARER'S 68th hat-trick of the season, against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, leaves him just one short of the postwar record of league hat-tricks in the top division in a season, set by Jimmy Greaves, of Chelsea, in 1960-61. With seven matches left in Blackburn Rovers' 1995-96 FA Carling Premiership campaign, Greaves's record is clearly under threat.

Shearer's hat-trick has pushed him further ahead in the list of leading goalscorers this season, with 28 in the Premiership and 34 in total. Even though Blackburn will have played only 38 league matches, he is also on course to surpass the record Premiership haul for one season of 34, which he shares with Andy Cole, now of Manchester United.. The hat-tricks scored by Premiership players this season are (league unless stated):

5: A Shearer (Blackburn): 5-1 win v Coventry (Sep 23); 7-0 win v Nottm Forest (Nov 18); 4-2 win v West Ham (Dec 2); 3-1 win v Bolton (Feb 3); 3-2 win at Tottenham (Mar 16).
2: R Fowler (Liverpool): 5-2 win v Bolton (Sep 23, scored 4); 3-1 win v Arsenal (Dec 23).
2: A Yeboah (Leeds United): 4-2 win at Wimbledon (Sep 23); 3-0 win at Monaco (Sep 12, Uefa Cup first round, first leg).
1: S Milosevic (Aston Villa): 4-1 win v Coventry (Dec 16).
1: G Peacock (Chelsea): 5-0 win v Middlesbrough (Feb 4).
1: D Dublin (Coventry): 4-3 defeat at Sheffield Wed (Dec 2).
1: G McAllister (Leeds United): 3-1 win v Coventry (Oct 28).
1: L Ferdinand (Newcastle): 6-1 win v Wimbledon (Oct 21).
1: M Le Tissier (Southampton): 4-3 defeat v Nottingham Forest (Aug 19).
1: M Newell (Blackburn): 4-1 win v Rosenberg (Dec 6, European Cup Champions' League).
1: S Collymore (Liverpool): 7-0 win v Rochdale (Jan 6, FA Cup third round).
1: E Sheringham (Tottenham): 5-1 win v Hereford (Jan 16, FA Cup third round replay).
1: I Wright (Arsenal): 5-0 win v Hartlepool (Oct 3, Coca-Cola Cup second round, second leg).
1: M Bright (Sheffield Wed): 5-2 win v Crewe (Oct 4, Coca-Cola Cup second round, second leg).

EUROPEAN

DUTCH LEAGUE: Doetinchem 1 Feyenoord 0; FC Volendam 0 Ajax Amsterdam 0; Vitesse Arnhem 3 Sparta Rotterdam 2, FC Groningen 1 RKC Waalwijk 1; Willem II Tilburg 1 Roda JC Kerkrade 3; Deventer 2 Heerenveen 3; Fortuna Sittard 2 Breda 2; PSV Eindhoven 0 FC Utrecht 0; Nimegen 1 FC Twente Enschede 4. Leading positions: 1, Ajax, played 25, 63; 2, PSV Eindhoven, 25, 61; 3, Feyenoord, 25, 44; 4, Vitesse Arnhem, 25, 42; 5, Sparta Rotterdam, 25, 41; 6, Breda, 26, 40.

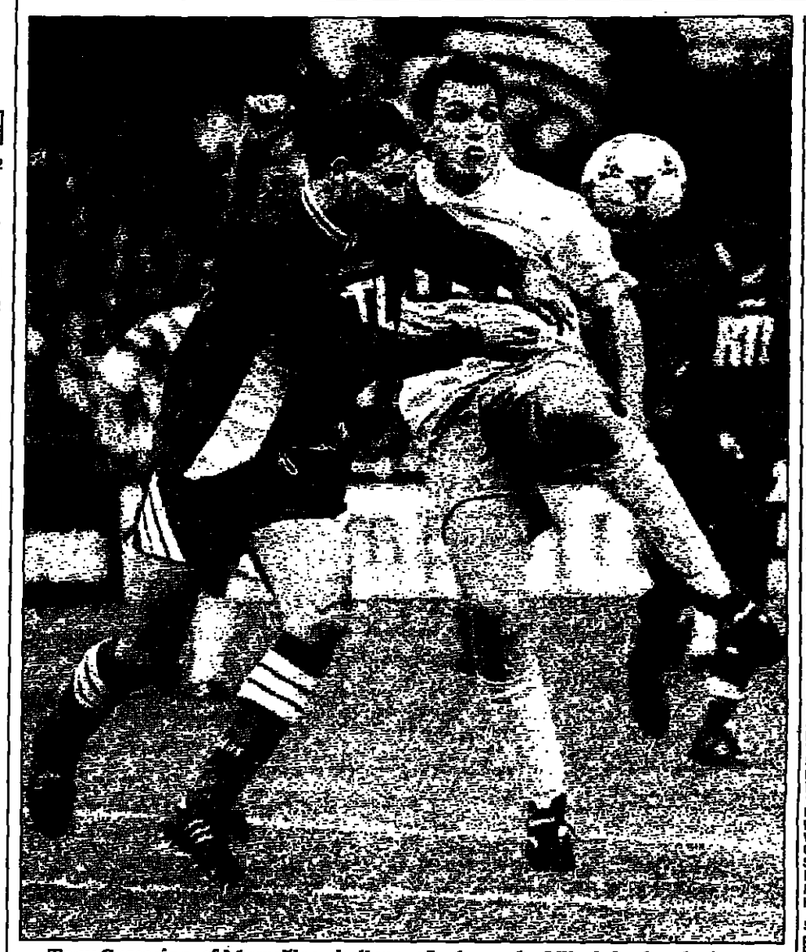
FRENCH LEAGUE: Rennes 0 Metz 0; St Etienne 2 Cannes 2. French Cup: Quarter-finals: Valence 0 Auxerre 2, Montpellier 1 Caen 0; Marseilles 1 Lille 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Paris SG	31	17	9	5	54	25	60
Auxerre	31	17	4	10	51	27	55
Lens	31	13	13	5	35	22	52
Metz	30	14	10	6	30	21	52
Monaco	30	14	9	7	46	30	51
Montpellier	30	13	8	9	42	34	47
Guingamp	30	12	12	7	29	23	47
Nantes	33	12	10	8	38	35	46
Strasbourg	31	11	11	9	39	32	44
Rennes	30	11	11	8	33	32	44
Bastia	30	12	5	13	36	38	41
Lyon	31	9	13	9	34	34	40
Le Havre	31	10	9	12	29	37	39
Bordeaux	31	10	6	14	36	42	36
Cannes	31	9	7	15	36	45	34
Nice	31	9	7	15	31	40	34
Lille	31	8	12	13	23	40	30
St Etienne	31	5	14	12	31	46	29
Gueugnon	31	5	12	14	22	41	27
Martigues	31	6	3	22	22	53	21

GERMAN LEAGUE: FC Cologne 2 1860 Munich 0; Werder Bremen 0 SC Freiburg 2; Eintracht Frankfurt 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1; Schalke 1 KFC Uerdingen 1; FC St Pauli 0 Borussia Monchengladbach 2; Bayern Munich 2 FC Kaiserslautern 0. VfB Stuttgart 0 Borussia Dortmund 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
B Dortmund	22	14	6	2	54	25	48
Bayern Munich	23	15	2	6	51	30	47
Monchengdbch	22	11	4	7	35	35	37
Schalke	22	8	9	5	26	26	33
Hamburger SV	21	8	8	5	38	30	32
VfB Stuttgart	22	8	8	6	43	41	32
SC Freiburg	23	8	6	9	32	28	30
Hansa Rostock	20	7	8	5	32	26	29
B Leverkusen	20	6	10	4	23	16	28
1860 Munich	23	7	7	9	33	36	28
Karlsruher SC	22	6	8	8	30	33	26
E Frankfurt	23	6	8	9	34	40	26
Werder Bremen	23	5	11	7	23	28	26
Cologne	22	4	11	7	21	24	23
St Pauli	22	5	7	10	28	35	22
Kaiserslautern	22	3	11	8	20	30	20
F Duesseldorf	22	3	10	9	20	34	19
KFC Uerdingen	22	2	10	10	18	32	16

SPANISH LEAGUE: Barcelona 1 Compostela 0; Zaragoza 1 Racing Santander 2; Real Madrid 2 Albacete 0. Leading positions: 1, Atlético Madrid, 65 points; 2, Barcelona, 60; 3, Valencia, 55; 4, Español, 54.



Tony Cascarino, of Marseilles, challenges Leclercq, the Lille defender, during a French cup match. Marseilles won 1-0 through a penalty from Bernard Ferrer

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

Premier division: Boston 4 Knowsley 2; Chorley 1 Blyth Spartans 4; Colwyn Bay 3 Matlock 3; Droylsden 1 Accrington Stanley 2; Emley 2 Buxton 1; Leek 1 Guiseley 1; Marine 3 Gainsborough 0; Spennymoor 1 Barrow 1; Winsford 0 Bishop Auckland 4; Witton 1 Hyde 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bamber Bridge	32	17	12	3	64	31	63
Hyde Utd	31	17	7	7	66	31	58
Boston Utd	34	18	4	12	66	47	58
Barrow	32	15	11	6	53	30	56
Witton Alb	32	16	5	11	49	44	53
Gainsborough	31	14	10	7	47	31	52
Emley	32	14	9	9	43	34	51
Blyth Sp	30	13	9	8	55	42	48
Guiseley	31	13	9	9	46	38	48
* Acc Stanley	32	13	11	8	47	42	47
B Auckland	35	12	10	13	49	47	46
Marine	29	11	9	9	36	33	42
Spennymoor	32	9	14	9	46	45	41
Knowsley	34	11	5	18	49	74	38
Leek Town	33	8	13	12	41	41	37
Chorley	30	10	5	15	49	56	35
Colwyn Bay	31	7	14	10	32	41	35
Winsford	30	7	12	11	35	53	33
* Frickley	32	7	10	15	44	71	28
Droylsden	33	7	7	19	46	86	28
Matlock	32	5	9	18	52	65	24
Buxton	32	4	9	19	38	63	21

* 3 points deducted

First division: Atherton LR 1 Ashton United 2; Curzon Ashton 1 Farsley Celtic 0; Fleetwood 0 Alfreton 2; Great Harwood 1 Bedford Park Avenue 3; Lancaster 3 Whitley Bay 1; Leigh 1 Eastwood Town 0; Lincoln United 2 Gretna 0; Prescot 1 Congleton 2; Warrington 2 Workington 3; Workington 3 Nantwich 2

BEAZER HOMES

Premier division: Atherstone 0 Halesowen 1; Bashley 1 Newport AFC 2; Cambridge City 0 Rushden and Diamonds 2; Chelmsford 3 Cheltenham 3; Gloucester 1 Sudbury 0; Gravesend and North 0 Worcester 1; Grantley 2 Burton 1; Hastings 0 Stafford 2; Hereford 2 Salisbury 1; VS Rugby 1 Merthyr 2. Postponed: Crawley v Dorchester

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Rushden & D	30	23	5	2	79	27	74
Halesowen	31	19	8	4	55	30	65
Gloucester	31	16	7	8	55	35	55
Merthyr	30	17	3	10	54	46	54
Worcester	30	15	8	7	45	30	53
Cheltenham	31	15	8	8	55	45	53
Grantley	28	14	6	8	48	37	48
Hastings	30	13	8	10	52	43	44
Burton	30	12	8	12	45	42	44
Chelmsford	30	11	11	10	40	42	44
Newport AFC	27	11	7	9	41	37	40
Baldock	33	10	9	14	43	46	39
Salisbury	31	11	6	14	44	52	39
Cambridge	32	11	6	15	42	51	39
Gravesend & N	30	10	7	13	46	50	37
Crawley	29	7	11	11	38	45	32
Sudbury	28	8	7	13	45	54	31
Dorchester	27	8	5	14	45	42	29
Stafford	31	9	2	20	48	68	29
Atherstone	31	6	8	17	41	62	26
Weston	30	6	5	19	35	73	23
VS Rugby	30	5	7	18	29	64	22

Midland division: Buckingham Town 0 Stourbridge 2; Dudley Town 1 Tamworth 0; Evesham 3 Rothwell 1; Kings Lynn 2 Bedworth 0; Leicester United 0 Grantham 1; Nuneaton 3 Moor Green 1; RC Warwick 1 Bilston 2; Redditch 1 Hinckley Town 2; Solihull 3 Sutton Coldfield 2.

Southern division: Ashford 2 Witney 0; Basingstoke 1 Cinderford 1; Clevedon 2 Slimbridge 3; Fleet 3 Fareham 2; Forest Green 0 Wokingham 3; Margate 0 Braintree 1; Newport IOW 1 Yate 0; Poole 0 Fisher 93 1; Weymouth 1 Tonbridge Angels 2; Weston-super-Mare 0 Havant 0

ICIS

Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 4 Molesey 0; Boreham Wood 2 Aylesbury 2; Bromley 5 Harrow 1; Carshalton 3 Grays 1; Enfield 0 Chertsey 0; Hendon 1 Dulwich 2; Hitchin 1 Kingstonian 1; Purfleet 2 Sutton United 1; St Albans 0 Hayes 3; Walton and Hersham 1 Worthing 0; Yeading 1 Yeovil 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
St Albans	33	18	9	6	61	29	63
Dulwich	30	18	8	4	64	38	62
Hayes	30	17	8	4	51	23	60
Enfield	30	18	5	7	55	22	59
Yeovil	31	16	9	6	65	41	57
Kingstonian	30	15	9	6	46	24	54
Aylesbury	29	14	9	6	48	29	51
Boreham Wood	27	14	8	5	41	22	50
Carshalton	27	15	4	8	50	38	49
Sutton Utd	33	13	10	10	55	46	49
Harrow Bor	30	13	8	9	49	41	47
B Stortford	30	13	7	10	43	36	46
Chertsey	31	11	7	13	35	45	38
Purfleet	30	10	6	14	39	48	36
Grays	31	8	8	15	33	48	32
Hitchin	31	8	7	16	33	55	31
Yeading	31	6	11	14	28	45	29
Hendon	30	6	7	17	30	53	25
Walton & H	31	7	4	20	29	54	25
Molesey	30	6	5	19	25	61	23
Bromley	31	5	4	22	36	76	19
Worthing	32	4	6	22	31	73	18

First division: Abingdon Town 0 Staines 2; Aldershot Town 1 Bognor Regis 1; Basingstoke 1 Barking 0; Chesham 3 Purfleet Manor 2; Holyhridge Swifts 2 Wokingham 0; Leyton Pennant 2 Uxbridge 1; Oxford City 2 Maidenhead United 3; Thame 3 Barton 1; Tooting and Mitcham 2 Marlow 0; Wembley 2 Berkhamsted 0; Whyteleafe 2 Billericay 1

Second division: Banstead 2 Edgware 2; Bedford Town 0 Saffron Walden 0; Canvey Island 3 Hungerford 0; Croydon 1 Hampton 0; Dorking 2 Bracknell 3; Leatherhead 0 Cobar Row 1; Metropolitan Police 1 Egham 2; Tilbury 1 Hemel Hempstead 1; Ware 2 Witham 0; Wivenhoe 0 Chalfont St Peter 2

Third division: Arnley 1 Flackwell Heath 1; Clapton 1 Camberley 3; Cove 1 Hadfield 1; Marlow 1 East Thurrock 0; Hertford 1 Wingate and Finchley 2; Kingsbury 1 Leighton 0; Northwood 2 Southall 1; Tring 0 Horsham 1; Wealdstone 1 Epsom and Ewell 1; Windsor and Eton 2 Hornchurch 1

FA VASE: Semi-finals, first leg: Bngg Town 0 Fleton 0; Margaretsfield 1 Clitheroe 0

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street 1 Tow Law 3; Consett 5 Dunston Federation 3; Crook 1 Gateshead 2; Murton 1 RTM Newcastle 2; Seaham Red Star 0 Billingham Synthonia 2; Shildon 0 Stockton 1; West Auckland 0 Bedlington 3; Whitby 6 Ferryhill 0. Postponed: Wrekenton v Peterlee

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle 4 Maine Road 3; Burscough 6 Rossendale 0; Chadderton 3 Darwen 2; Holker Old Boys 1 Glossop North End 1; Ridgeway 3 Salford 0; Mossley 5 Skelmersdale 1; Prescot 3 Trafford 2; St Helens 1 Eastwood Hanley 4; Blackpool Rovers 0 Nantwich 2; Newcastle Town 2 Prenm 0

Midland division: Buckingham Town 0 Stourbridge 2; Dudley Town 1 Tamworth 0; Evesham 3 Rothwell 1; Kings Lynn 2 Bedworth 0; Leicester United 0 Grantham 1; Nuneaton 3 Moor Green 1; RC Warwick 1 Bilston 2; Redditch 1 Hinckley Town 2; Solihull 3 Sutton Coldfield 2.

Southern division: Ashford 2 Witney 0; Basingstoke 1 Cinderford 1; Clevedon 2 Slimbridge 3; Fleet 3 Fareham 2; Forest Green 0 Wokingham 3; Margate 0 Braintree 1; Newport IOW 1 Yate 0; Poole 0 Fisher 93 1; Weymouth 1 Tonbridge Angels 2; Weston-super-Mare 0 Havant 0

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 0 Taunton 0; Bridport 1 Calne 1; Chippenham 0 Beckwell 0; Odd Down 3 Crediton 0; Paulton 7 Elmore 0; Torrington 5 Bristol Manor Farm 0; Westbury 6 Frome 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 5 Brighton 0

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 1 Westfield 1; Bedfont 2 Cobham 1; DCA Basingstoke 2 Reading 2; Elon Wick 1 Ashford 3; Farnham 2 Viking Sports 0; Horley 2 Chipstead 3; Netherne 4 Sandhurst 0; Peppard 1 Hanley Wintney 0; Walton Casuals 1 Cranleigh 2

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch Villa 1 Knowle 3; Bloxwich 5 Northfield 0; Coleshill 5 Southam 3; Handsworth Timbers 4 Studley B K L 0; Highgate 0 Shelley 1; Kings Heath 3 Chelmsley 0; Massey Ferguson 3 Ansells 0; Melr KA 1 Olton Royals 3; Wellesbourne 3 Upton 1; West Midland Fire Service 1 Coventry Sphinx 3

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Concord 3 Brentwood 0; Elon Manor 0 Bowers 0; Hullbridge Sports 2 Sawbridgeworth 1. Premier division League cup: Semi-final replay: Burnham Ramblers 0 Southend Manor 0.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United 0 Carterton 1; Almondsbury 0 Bicester 1; Banbury 0 Highworth 1; Cirencester 1 Swindon Supermarine 0; Endsleigh 0 Didcot 0; Fairford 1 Brackley 2; Knitbury 2 Lambourn Sports 4; Shortwood 2 Burnham 5; Tuffley 2 North Leigh 2

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe 6 Bourne 0; Holbeach 2 Eynesbury 1; Long Buckby 3 Sand L Corby 2; Mirrlees Blackstone 4 Newport Pagnell 1; Northampton Spencer 0 Boston 0; Spalding 0 Desborough 2; Stamford 0 Raunds 4; Stotfold 3 Kempston 0; Wellingborough 3 St Neots 2; Wootton 1 Potton 3

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Blakenall 3 Boldmere St Michaels 2; Bolehall Swifts 0 Binwell 4; Kynoperley 2 Willenhall 2; Pershore 2 Halesowen Harriers 4; Rocester 2 West Midlands Police 1; Shepshed Dynamo 0 Hinckley Athletic 2; Sntnal 0 Chasetown 0; Stapenhill 1 Sandwell 6; Stafford 0 Oldbury 1

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton 2 Woodbridge 0; Comard 1 Wroxham 0; Fakenham 0 Stowmarket 1; Great Yarmouth 0 Hadleigh 0; Halstead 2 Newmarket 2; Harwich and Parkeston 6 March 1; Soham 1 Diss 3; Sudbury 2 Lowestoft 1; Sudbury 1 Felixstowe 1; Tiptree 0 Wroxham 2

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures 0 Ryde Sport 1; Totton 0 Wimborne 0; Bournemouth 1 Thatcham 1; Brockenhurst 0 Eastleigh 1; Cowes Sports 1 BAT 1; Downton 2 Wimborne 0; East Cowes 2 Bemerton Heath Harlequins 1; Gosport 3 Andover 2; Petersfield 0 Lymington 3; Portsmouth RN 0 Christchurch 1

NUCLEAR ELECTRIC KENT COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Bearsted 6 Sean Sports and Social 1; Bishopsbourne 1 Snowdown 1; Kennington 1 Bond Sports 3; Lydd 3 Broomfield 0; Maidstone Invicta 1 Phoenix Sports 4; Rye and Marguerite 1; Swanscombe 1 Plan 2; University at Kent 0 Temperden 2

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hamptonians 5 Cardinal Manning 1; Meadonians, 4 Isleworthians 2; Glyn 3 Latymer 1. First division: Wilsonians 5 Manorians 1; Salvatorians 4 Suttonians 2; Shene Grammarians 3 Tiffonians 1; Phoenix 2 Vaughanians 3; Chertsey Salesians 0 Kingsburians 2

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carthusians 2 Malvernians 1. First division: Brentwoods 1 Salopians 1; Wellingburians 4 Hailleybourians 1

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Chelsea 1 Ipswich Town 0, Gillingham 0 West Ham United 3; Leyton Orient 1 Arsenal 1; Millwall 2 Cambridge United 0; Norwich City 1 Charlton Athletic 4; Portsmouth 0 Tottenham Hotspur 4; Queens Park Rangers 1 Watford 1. Second division: Bristol Rovers 1 Brentford 2; Colchester 2 AFC Bournemouth 1; Crystal Palace 2 Wimbledon 0; Luton Town 2 Reading 2; Southampton 3 Barnet 1; Tottenham Hotspur 3 Brighton and Hove Albion 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2 Oxford United 0.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Winchmore Hill 0 Norsoman 1; NatWest Bank 5 Civil Service 4, East Barnet OG 2 West Wickham 3, Old Actonians 5 Kew Association 0; Old Latymerians 3 Polytechnic 3; Lloyds Bank 0 Old Stationers 0; Alexandra Park 0 Old Parmeterians 1, Old Bromleians 2 Midland Bank 3; Old Lyonians 1 Old Parkonians 0; Alleyn OB 1 Old Westminster Citizens 2; Bank of England 6 Ibis 3, Cuaco 2 Old Salesians 0

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: First division: Albanian 6 Ulysses 4, Hale End 3 Parkfield 1, St Marys College 1 Old Owens 5, Southgate County 1 Wilton 1 Second division: City of London 3 Honourable Artillery Company 1; Ealing Association 2 Hadley 2, Mill Hill Village 7 UCL Academicals 0, Wandsworth 3 Old Finchleians 1

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Crowborough 1 Arundel 6, Eastbourne Town 1 Pagham 0, Hailsham 1 Ringmer 1, Hassocks 3 Portfield 2, Horsham YMCA 2 Saltdean Utd 0, Langney Sports 2 Wick 2; Mile Oak 2 Burgess Hill 2, Peacehaven and Telscombe 2 Oakwood 1, Three Bridges 2 Whitehawk 0

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE. National League: Everton 6 Wolverhampton 2, Villa Aztecs 1 Blyston 2 Northern division: Langford 1 Garswood St Helens 7 Southern division: Oxford 3 Berkhamstead 6, Southampton Saints 3 Ipswich 1.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido 2 Bangor City 3, Briton Ferry 1 Caernarfon Bay 1; Caersws 3 Caernarfon 2; Holywell 3 Flint Town 5; Llanelli 2 Connah's Quay 0 Rhyl 0 Porthmadog 1, Ton Pentre 1 Newtown 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Barry	28	21	5	2	65	14	68
Conwy	29	16	9	4	79	41	57
Flint	31	17	6	8	68	38	57
Newtown	29	16	8	5	46	20	56
Bangor	31	17	5	9	58	51	56
Caernarfon	31	13	10	8	60	42	49
Caersws	28	13	5	10	61	68	44
Porthmadog	31	11	8	12	45	45	41
Cwmbran	26	10	10	6	40	27	40
Connah's Quay	28	9	12	7	49	43	39
Ebbw Vale	29	10	9	10	36	34	39
Inter Cardiff	29	10	8	11	44	45	38
Holywell	30	9	6	15	45	58	33
Ton Pentre	29	7	11	11	34	46	32
Llanrumtfraid	28	8	7	13	41	46	31
Aberystwyth	30	7	8	15	44	54	29
Comden Bay	27	8	5	14	39	59	29
Rhyl	29	7	7	15	34	62	28
Briton Ferry	29	7	7	15	43	72	28
Llanelli	30	6	6	18	43	70	24
Afan Lido	30	5	6	19	21	58	21

WELSH CUP: Semi-finals first leg: Barry 1 Cwmbran 0; Inter Cardiff 0 Llanrumtfraid 1.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards 2 Cliftonville 2, Glentoran 2 Crusaders 2, Linfield 2 Glenavon 1; Portadown 4 Bangor 3

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
1	1	3	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1

Champions still in driving seat after Hughes's late header rescues Celtic

Rangers draw most from stalemate

Rangers 1
Celtic 1

BY KEVIN McCARRA

THE explosiveness and effort of this Old Firm match failed to make any impression on the Bell's Scottish League premier division, in which Rangers ended yesterday with their three-point lead unaltered. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, recognised afterwards that avoiding defeat had been "the important thing".

He nonetheless delivered the observation without relish, having seen Rangers concede a lead established by McLaren when, three minutes from times. Hughes equalised for a Celtic side reduced to ten men by McNamara's sending-off. However, survival and the extension of an unbeaten run in domestic football to 27 games brought little elation to the visitors, who still lag in the championship race.

The frustration felt by players on both sides stemmed from the expertise of their opponents at containment. Their ability also meant that entertainment, in the first half especially, was strictly limited.

Few passes were misdirected but great quantities of craft and movement were required merely to ensure that possession was held in midfield. That the result should be determined by goals claimed by defenders at set-pieces demonstrated the static tone of the game before the closing stages, when weariness — and Celtic's need of an equaliser — permitted play to flow.

Rangers would have been content with that early gridlock, since it kept them rolling smoothly on towards the title. Celtic, too, still show traces of fallibility in these games, as failure to beat their great rivals in five attempts this season proves.

Rangers took the lead after 41 minutes. As Terry Venables, the England coach, watched, Gascoigne, nagged by tackles and challenges and with the match sometimes proving too brisk for him, at last had the chance to make unmolested use of the ball. O'Donnell fouled Cleland on the left and Gascoigne dropped a perfect free kick for McLaren to step in front of Hughes and score with a flick of the head that sent the ball skidding past Marshall.

With that touch, Celtic could no longer draw any pleasure from merely being compact. Tommy Burns, their manager, had reinstated O'Donnell, fielded in an unfamilar role on the right, and Collins, but the alterations seemed only to deplete the team. A sense of adventure needed to be reinstated.

Collins, after a bland display, was replaced, and O'Donnell encouraged to drift into the centre of the action. Even so, the tactics hardly ruffled Rangers, although the substitute, McLaughlin, scurried and darted cleverly on the left. Goram, in goal, had few opportunities to flaunt his acrobatic excellence.

Rangers might well have added a second goal after 77 minutes, when Laudrup spurted in from the right, got the break of the ball and crossed to Durie. The substitute's header was well directed, but Marshall reached it impressively, applying a grazing touch that diverted the effort onto the post.

Celtic survived then, but after 77 minutes they were depleted, when McNamara was sent off for a wild, mistimed challenge on Miller, his second bookable offence. The energy of the visitors, though, never flagged, and O'Donnell, boring through eight minutes from the end, made swiping contact to force the ball past Goram, only for Durie to clear from the line.

After 87 minutes there were, for once, no obstacles in Celtic's path. Miller brought down McStay on the right, and Grant's free kick was guided low into the corner of the net by the head of Hughes, who thus atoned for his culpability at the opening goal.

A sense of satisfaction is, though, never more disabling than in an Old Firm match. In the scant time remaining, Rangers might twice have seized victory. McCall put a looping header against the bar from a corner, and McCoist forced the rebound wide. McCoist then missed once more, heaving a shot well over. Even so, his team's sense of direction survives as they move nearer to the title.

RANGERS (3-5-1-1): A Goram — G Petrie, A McLaren, J Brown — C Moore (sub: G Dune, 34min), S McCall, P Gascoigne, C Miller, A Cleland — B Laudrup — A McCoist.

CELTIC (4-4-2): G Marshall — J McNamara, T Boyd, J Hughes, T McKinlay — P McStay, P Grant, P O'Donnell, J Collins (sub: B McLaughlin, 46) — P van Hooijdonk, A Thom (sub: M Wieghorst, 78)
Referee: J McCluskey

TITLE RUN-IN

REMAINING MATCHES

RANGERS: Mar 23: Falkirk (h) March 30: Raith Rovers (a) Apr 10: Heart of Midlothian (a) Apr 13: Partick Thistle (h) Apr 20: Motherwell (a) Apr 28: Aberdeen (h) May 4: Kilmarnock (a)

CELTIC: Mar 23: Motherwell (a) Apr 1: Aberdeen (h) Apr 10: Kilmarnock (h) Apr 14: Hibernian (a) Apr 20: Falkirk (h), Apr 27: Partick Thistle (a) May 4: Raith Rovers (h)



Laudrup's long stride takes the Rangers striker clear of Grant's sliding tackle during the match against Celtic at Ibrox yesterday

Clitheroe confident of making class tell

Mangotsfield United 1
Clitheroe 0

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE Clitheroe supporters who had made the journey from Lancashire to Bristol left Cossham Street on Saturday chanting with confidence that their side will reach Wembley after the second leg of the FA Carlsberg Vase semi-final at Shawbridge next Saturday.

They were understandably exhilarated by the way that Clitheroe had taken the game to Mangotsfield with pass-and-move football that made light of a cut-up, stamina-sapping pitch — yet the advantage rests with Mangotsfield, courtesy of a goal by Richard Thompson, their central defender, in the 44th minute.

Mangotsfield will take with them the knowledge that they have not been beaten on five away trips in the Vase this season. They will also be forcibly reminded by Terry Rowles, their manager, that they must also play to their potential.

"We really didn't play well at all," he said. "It was our worst performance of the season." Rowles described his side as "jaded" after slogging through a Great Mills League Cup-tie at Glastonbury in similarly heavy conditions in midweek. Coming up against swift, sharp-witted opponents did not help.

While Clitheroe's tireless, textbook attacking held the air of a masterclass, their shots were hit straight to the goalkeeper or blocked by desperate defenders.

Never were Clitheroe allowed the clear sight of goal that Thompson enjoyed when he planted home the Mangotsfield winner with a firm header from Hewlett's cross.

Denis Underwood, the Clitheroe joint-manager with Gary Butcher, the midfield player, said: "I can promise the pitch next week will be much better — and we will be able to move the ball faster."

MANGOTSFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): J Matthews — W Morris, D Ewens, R Thompson (sub: N McKeown, 77min), G Taylor — G Hewlett, N Gillard, S Winstone, S Minall — M Rawlings, A Perrett (sub: D Bright, 75)

CLITHEROE (4-4-2): C Nash — N Rowbotham, S Westwell, N Baron, S Lamkin (sub: A Taylor, 20) — C Grimshaw, G Butcher, A Rawline, D Hill — C Dunn, J Riley (sub: A Derbyshire, 67)
Referee: P Roger

0800 550 550 join us RAC

Lister tells of trouble in store for athletics

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE financial turmoil in British athletics has reached a new intensity. On Saturday, John Lister, the outgoing treasurer of the British Athletic Federation (BAF), told the federation's annual meeting in Birmingham that the sport was "paying the price for the complacency of self-interest" and warned that the next few years would be "quite painful".

The BAF made a loss of £174,000 over the year. Lister said that the two main reasons for the loss were the legal costs of anti-doping cases — £159,000 in 1995 — and the drop in income from sponsorship and attendances at meetings.

The BAF has already spent £195,000 on the Diane Modahl case. The 1990 Commonwealth Games 800 metres champion, who returned to national competitive athletics on Saturday as a member of the Sale team that won the national cross country relay championships, is now claiming £480,000 in legal costs and loss of earnings.

However Lister, who said he was expressing his own personal views, criticised both the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) and the Southern Counties Amateur Athletic Association, which are constituent members of BAF. He said the south of England "needs to demonstrate that it is a committed part of BAF". He said that the financial reserves of both organisations should unreservedly be available for the BAF.

However, Geoff Clarke, the AAA treasurer, said that it had handed over its share of the benefits of the London Marathon and the AAA's indoor and outdoor championships to the BAF when it was founded five years ago. He also said the AAA had itself made a loss last year of £40,000.

The new treasurer is Martin Evanson. Mary Peters, the new BAF president and the 1972 Olympic pentathlon champion, said that she wanted to be a figurehead of "dignity and humour". This is something athletics particularly needs at the moment.

Ito the star attraction of Canadian extravaganza



Ito: spectacular

John Hennessy sets the scene for the ice skating world championships, which begin this week

It all began modestly 100 years ago with four entries at St Petersburg in its earlier incarnation. From that tiny acorn, there flourished a mighty oak of such proportions that 219 skaters will take part in the world championships here in Edmonton this week before a global television audience of more than 150 million.

Those four pioneers, all male, competed merely for the honour. This week, with the word "amateur" supplanted by "eligible" in the lexicon of the International Skating Union, a prize fund of nearly $1 million (£650,000) is on offer, $50,000 to the winners of the solo events and $75,000 to the top pairs and ice dance couples.

Given Canada's unquenchable enthusiasm for anything on skates, no special incentive will be needed to draw the crowds to the Coliseum here but, if there were, the reappearance of Midori Ito, at 26 a Japanese firecracker, would surely fill the bill. Her claim to fame springs, or at least sprang, from her spectacular jumping, the first woman to do a triple axel in competition in winning the world title in Paris in 1989.

Less happily, one calls to mind her triple lutz in the 1991 world championships, when her diagonal approach was so long delayed that she was sitting in a television cameraman's lap when she should have still been on the ice performing the second part of her combination jump.

More recently, she has been in the shadows, internationally at least, and she has been enticed back only by the prospect of an Olympic success in two years' time in her own country.

In practice yesterday, she showed all her old power, with the triple axel still under control, and with it a new personal maturity. The former schoolgirl grin, seemingly in embarrassment at her precocious talent, has been replaced by a confident woman-of-the-world smile. She has learnt her lesson well, too, for the lutz is now executed down the length of the rink. Nearly 2,000 square metres of ice should provide room enough even for her prodigious leaps.

The next week will show whether or not time has passed her by. Her principal opponents include Michelle Kwan, of the United States, at 15 a winner of the Champions Series in Paris recently, Irina Slutskaya, 17, from Russia, holder of the European title, and Lu Chen, of China, world champion last March at 18. Ito must almost feel ready for her bus-pass.

The British challenge, as is usually the case these days, rests almost exclusively on the powerful shoulders of Steven Cousins, but he will be doing well if he can emulate his eighth place of a year ago, such is the strength of the entry in the men's competition.

Marika Humphreys and Philip Askew have been attracting encouraging notices among the ice dancers but, on their first appearance at this level, a place in the top ten must be the limit of their expectations.

Reading pursuing double

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

BARELY 24 hours after eliminating Guildford, the holders, from the Hockey Association Cup, Reading renewed their challenge for the national league title with a 3-1 home win over Canterbury.

Reading achieved their victory with a goal by Pearn from a short corner and two by Osborn, one from a penalty stroke and the other from open play in the first half. Mathews replied for Canterbury seven minutes from time.

Cannock, the leaders, however showed they intend to maintain their position with an impressive 7-0 away win over Bournville. Crutchley's three goals bringing his total for the season to 30 in 16 matches. Despite a 3-1 victory over Guildford, Old Loughtonians dropped out of the title race.

It was not a happy day for Giles, who took over the captaincy of a depleted Havant side for their trip to Southgate. His penalty stroke early in the second half went astray and Southgate inflicted a further wound when Attala converted a similar award a minute later for a 4-0 lead.

Southgate had, by half-time, scored three goals through Danny Kerry on the rebound from a short corner, Waugh from open play and Sean Kerry from another short corner. Pattison eventually hit the target in the 64th minute for Havant but Waugh added another goal for Southgate a minute from time for a 5-1 victory.

Sean Kerly scored three goals for Richmond from open play in the second division match against Slough, who lost 6-1, but Richmond, with one match to play, are not yet safe from relegation.

In Saturday's cup quarter-finals, Southgate were outgunned by Old Loughtonians. Mason's splendid goalkeeping for Reading spelt the end of Guildford, and Teddington kept their composure to shatter the hopes of Canterbury. Finally, East Grinstead prevailed over Havant, the home side, by the odd goal in seven in a late flurry of excitement.

Results, page 30

Hightown turn up the heat

HAVING put themselves within striking distance of their first national women's league hockey title, Hightown are showing few signs of weakening (Alix Ramsay writes). On Saturday, they pulled two points clear of the chasing pack by defeating Sutton Coldfield 1-0.

They were missing their top striker, Tina Cullen, who was away in Russia on international duty with Great Britain, but her absence made little difference, Trish Maudsley scoring what proved to be the the decisive goal from a penalty corner just before half-time. Sutton Coldfield's loss pushed them down to third place in the premier division while Ipswich rose to second position by beating Clifton 1-0, Debbie Rawlinson scoring the only goal. Ipswich then went on to beat Loughborough Students 3-0 in the AEWHA Cup yesterday to reach the quarter-finals of thast competition.

Slough, the league champions, are currently languishing in sixth place and are not enjoying a happy season. On Saturday they were beaten 1-0 by seventh-placed Doncaster but then took out their frustration on Woking, of the second division, in the cup. They strolled into the quarter-finals with six goals from Kate White, Lesley Hobley, Helen Thornally, Sally Eyre, Karen Brown and Sharon Dendy.

For Rachel Smith, the weekend had nothing but happy memories. It was her goal after four minutes that beat Slough, and she repeated the feat after five minutes yesterday as Doncaster defeated Harleston Magpies 1-0 to move through to the next round of the cup.

Archer may gain in spite of loss

SIMON ARCHER and Julie Bradbury lost their first All England badminton championship final on Saturday but almost certainly earned a seeding for a medal position at the Olympics in Atlanta (Richard Eaton writes).

The English pair were beaten 15-10, 15-10 by Park Joo-Bong and Ra Kyung-Min, of South Korea, in the tournament at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham.

Park, regarded by many as the greatest doubles player, looks almost as quick as ever, despite two periods of retirement. His ambition of returning to win another Olympic gold, now that mixed doubles has been added to the Games, looks within his grasp.

The English might have done better, though, but for Archer's ankle injury which progressively worsened through the tournament. However, the impression left by the semi-final victory over Jan-Erik Antonsson and Astrid Crabo, of Sweden, who had denied them a world championship medal last year, was that Archer and Bradbury are improving.

Poul-Erik Hoyer, the All England champion said to be a one-title wonder, rid himself of that label by winning the men's singles again with a 15-6, 15-6 victory over Rashid Sidek, the Commonwealth champion. Bang Soo-Hyun won the women's title.

Robinson wonders what he did wrong

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

MARK ROBINSON spent most of yesterday in a state of bewilderment, wondering what he had done to upset Mike Hanks, the enigmatic coach of Manchester Giants. Within 12 minutes of the start of the Budweiser League basketball fixture in the Granby Halls, Robinson had collected 16 points for the Giants against Leicester City Riders. Yet he was then summoned to the bench to play no further part in a game that the Giants lost by the embarrassing margin of 109-89 to the league's second-from-bottom club.

"We've got some internal problems that we need to work on," Hanks said. "I am not at liberty to talk about it."

"I don't understand it," Robinson said. "I have no idea of what I did wrong. I don't think I have missed a shot, apart from two free throws. When he took me off, I thought it might only be for a minute, but then it was half-time and he carried on with the same players who had finished the first half."

As the Giants fell ever further behind to the accurate three-point shooting of Gene Waldron, whose 41 points included four from long-range, the same as Rich Aigner in his 28 points, the other Manchester players pleaded with Hanks for their normally high-scoring 6ft 5in American forward to return. There was no response.

"What did you do?" they asked their team-mate. "You're here with me, what did I do?" Robinson replied. "Maybe he was trying to find out how the team reacted without me." It was an expensive exercise, with the Giants slipping to their third successive defeat.

Coincidentally, Robinson returns to the same court on Wednesday, when he will expect to be afforded far more court-time by Jim Brandon, coach of the North team for the All-Star game.

Exploiting the surprise 78-72 defeat of Brandon's club, Sheffield Sharks, at Birmingham Bullets on Friday, the London Towers enhanced their title claims with an 87-72 victory at Newcastle Comets that was hastened by 22 points from Tony Windless and 20 from Steve Bucknell in front of a crowd of 4,865.

The Sharks made up for that lapse by winning 73-63 at Worthing Bears last night. Colin Irish, the Bears' player-coach — scorer of 29 points in his team's 109-94 defeat at Thames Valley Tigers the previous night — added another 35, but to no avail, since the Sharks had, in Todd Cauthorn, an outstanding rebounder, and Roger Huggins, a consistent scorer, who finished with 19 points, the decisive figures.

around the corner

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY: Mansfield: English relay championships: Senior men (4 x 5km): 1, Bingley 59min 56sec (course record); 2, Coventry Godiva 59:56, 3, Border 60:15; 4, Tipton 60:28; 5, Belgrave 60:49; 6, Loughborough University 61:11. Fastest laps: 1, G Tromans (Coventry Godiva) 14:32; 2, N Hawkins (Bingley) 14:40, 3, G Staines (Belgrave) 14:43; 4, S White (Coventry Godiva) 14:54 Senior women (3 x 3km): Sale Manchester 31:50; 2, Hounslow 32:50; 3, Charnwood 33:13; 4, Derby Ladies 33:16; 5, Liverpool 33:22; 6, Notts 34:21 Fastest laps: 1, A Griffiths (Sale) 10:16; 2, L Wright (Leeds City) 10:22; 3, A Joiner (Charnwood) 10:24; 4, S Parker (Sale) 10:30. Junior men (4x3km): 1, Peterborough 38:39; 2, Tipton 39:08; 3, Oadby and Wigston Legionnaires 39:29. Fastest lap: A Oldfield (Tipton) 9:04. Junior women (3x2.5km): 1, Birchfield 26:36; 2, Shaftesbury Barnet 26:52; 3, Morpeth 27:26. Fastest lap: J Oldfield (Birchfield) 8:36 Men Under-17 (4x2.5km): 1, Solihull and Small Heath 30:48; 2, Oadby and Wigston Legionnaires 31:28; 3, Staffs Moorlands 31:39. Fastest lap: P Morby (Solihull and Small Heath) 7:21 Girls Under-15 (3x2km): 1, City of Stoke 21:27; 2, Liverpool 21:39; 3, Stevenage and North Herts 21:53. Fastest lap: E Ward (City of Stoke) 6:52. Girls Under-13 (3 x 2km): 1, Liverpool 22:36; 2, Southport Waterloo 22:54; 3, Peterborough 22:54. Fastest lap: L Michaelson (Liverpool) 7:16

Chingford: Orion Invitation (15 miles): 1, R McCormack (Trent Park Trotters) 1hr 29min 49sec; 2, J Leversedge (Haringey) 1:30:17; 3, A Rickards (Luton) 1:30:56. Team: Woodford Green 4:51:13 Women: 1, Z Lowe (St Albans Striders) 1:48:40; 2, J Shepherd (Bishops Stortford) 1:58:21; 3, J Bird (Milton Keynes) 1:57:53. Teams: Orion 5:23:29

Petersham: Hec Petersen Trophy (3.8 miles): 1, P Barratt (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 20min 35sec; 2, R Howells (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 20:41; 3, J O'Looney (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 21:29. Teams: 1, Ealing, Southall and Middlesex 50pts; 2, Ranelagh 86.

West Wickham: Inter-club (10km): 1, H Morten (Blackheath) 37:29; 2, C McCarthy (Blackheath) 39.11; 3, A French (Bank of England) 39.30 Teams: 1, Blackheath 38pts; 2, Bank of England 89.

Maidstone: South East Police Championships: Men (10km): 1, R McHarg (Thames Valley, holder) 27min:44sec, 2, S Morley (Sussex) 28:06; 3, B Mabon (Surrey) 28:35 Teams: 1, Sussex 28pts; 2, Thames Valley 36; 3, Hampshire 62. Veteran: P Balmead (Sussex) 29:43. Women (5km): 1, A Larby (Hampshire) 18:32; 2, C Houghton (Kent) 17:01; 3, L Proke (Bedfordshire) 17:51 Teams: 1, Hampshire 10; 2, Kent 20; 3, Sussex 78

ROAD RUNNING: Worcester: AAA half-marathon championships: Men: 1, J Hobbs (Cardiff) 1hr 03min 41sec (course record); 2, D Swanston (Border) 1:03:48; 3, S Knight (Cardiff) 1:03:57; 4, M Peters (Bingley) 1:04:14; 5, S Brace (Bridgend) 1:04:46; 6, A Jackson (Stourport) 1:05.16. Teams: 1, Bridgend 49pts; 2, Westbury 64, 3, Stourport 71. Women: 1, S Rigg (Warrington) 1:13:04 (course record); 2, D Sanderson (Watford) 1:14:22; 3, M Sutton (Westbury) 1:14.40; 4, T Swindell (Thurrock) 1:16:57, 5, L Hollick (Shaftesbury Barnet) 1:17:37; 6, K Rushton (Southampton City) 1:19:24 Teams: 1, Birchfield 49tt; 2, Rowheath 753

Brockwell Park: Frank Harmer Memorial (10km): 1, A Green (Bexhill Racers) 31min 06sec; 2, D Robinson (Herne Hill) 31.29; 3, M Boyle (Herne Hill) 31:39. Team: Herne Hill 9pts

BADMINTON

BIRMINGHAM: Yonex All-England Championships: Finals: Men: Singles: H Larsen (Den) bt R Sidek (Malay) 15-7, 15-6 Doubles: R Mamaky and R Subagdja (Indo) bt C Soon Kit and Y Kim Hock (Malay) 15-6, 15-5. **Women:** Singles: Bang Soo-Hyun (Kor) bt Y Zhaoying (China) 11-1, 11-1. Doubles: G Fe and G Jun (China) bt H Kirkegaard and R Olsen (Den) 15-7, 15-3. Mixed: Park Joo-Bong and Ra Kyung-Min (Kor) bt J Bradbury and S Archer (Eng) 15-10, 15-10

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Chicago 97 New Jersey 93; New York 94 Philadelphia 88; Washington 120 Utah 115 (OT), Miami 121 Houston 97; San Antonio 119 Atlanta 92; Golden State 99 Milwaukee 94

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester 109 Manchester 89; Newcastle 72 London Towers 67; Hemel 70 Derby 94; Thames Valley 109 Worthing 94

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Bury 84 Crystal Palace 106; Mid-Sussex 100 Plymouth 91; Nottingham 108 Oldham & Rochdale 88; Stockton 94 Cardiff 77; Ware 91 Solent 57 Second division: Chiltern 82 Greenwich 85; Cosford 97 Worcester 82; Liverpool ATAC 81 Croydon 82, Westminster Warriors 94 Poole 43. **Women: First division:** Birmingham 67 Tyne & Wear 40; Ipswich 48 Rhondda 68; London 60 Nottingham 66; Thames Valley 88 Northampton 108; Plymouth 33 Sheffield 89; Spelthorne 46 Barking & Dagenham 47. Second division: Oxford 59 Manchester 75, Wirral 79 Shropshire 67

BILLIARDS

BALLYMENA: World Matchplay Championship: Final: M Russell (Eng) bt P Gilchrist (Eng) 7-5

BOWLS

DENNY CUP: Quarter-finals: Cumbria 96 Desborough (Micklenhead) 81, Cyphers 71 Tye Green 54; Sunderland 85 Teignbridge 73, Ade 78 E Dorset 69. **Semi-finals:** Cumbria 83 Cyphers 66; Sunderland 84 Acle 72 Final: Cumbria 79 Sunderland 58.

SURREY INDOOR FOURS: Final: Croydon (J Howick) 23 Temple (A Carter) 18.

BOXING

MGM GRAND GARDEN, Las Vegas: World Boxing Council heavyweight championship (12rds): Mike Tyson (US) bt Frank Bruno (Eng, holder) rsc 3rd. International Boxing Federation middleweight championship (12rds): Bernard Hopkins (US, holder) bt Joe Lipsey (US) ko 4th; World Boxing Council middleweight championship (12rds): Keith Holmes (US) bt Quincy Taylor (US, holder) rsc 9th Vacant International Boxing Federation light-flyweight championship (12rds): Michael Carbajal (US) bt Melchor Cob-Castro (Mex) pts. World Boxing Council strawweight championship (12rds): Ricardo Lopez (Mex, holder) bt Edito Villamor (Phil) ko 8th

EXHIBITION CENTRE, Glasgow: World Boxing Organisation world featherweight championship (12rds): Naseem Hamed (Sheffield, holder) bt Said Lawal (Nigeria) rsc 1st. Undercard: Light-heavyweight (8rds): Mark Prince (Bredon) bt John Pierre (Newcastle) pts. Cruiserweight (4rds): Kelly Oliver (Bristol) bt Marvin O'Brien (Leeds) rsc 2nd Super-middleweight (8rds): Robin Reid (Runcorn) bt Andy Flute (Crossley) rsc 7th. Middleweight (6rds): Jason Matthews (Hackney) bt John McAlpine (Glasgow) rsc 1st; Willie Quinn (Tranent) bt Martin Jolley (Alfreton) rsc 4th Light-middleweight (4rds): Tommy Quinn (Tranent) bt Shamus Casey (Alfreton) pts. Welterweight (6rds): Allan McDowall (Renfrew) bt Mark Ramsay (Birmingham) pts. Super-featherweight (6rds): Dean Phillips (Llanelli) bt Mark Brown (Islington) rsc 6th. Featherweight (6rds): Cassius Baloyi (SA) bt Peter Judson (Keighley) pts; (6rds): Floyd Havard (Swansea) bt Sergio Pena (Dom) pts. Super-bantamweight (4rds): Brian Carr (Woodlesburn) bt Chip O'Neil (Newcastle) pts.

BERLIN: World Boxing Organisation intercontinental heavyweight championship (12rds): Scott Welch (Brighton, holder) bt Joe Bugner (Aus) rsc 6th. World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight championship (12rds): Rolf Rocchigiani (Ger, holder) bt Jay Snyder rsc 4th

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day): Melbourne: Victoria 152 and 468-9 dec; Western Australia 223 and 309. Victoria won by 76 runs. Adelaide: South Australia 507-7 dec and 182-9 dec; Tasmania 320 and 348. South Australia won by 21 runs.

CYCLING

NICE: Paris-Nice race: Eighth stage: First half (72km leg around Nice): 1, M Sciandri (GB) 1 hr 46min 48sec; 2, J Odriozola (Sp) and 3, M Gianetti (Switz) same time; 4, T Steels (Bel) at 1sec; 5 F Moncassin (Fr) same time. Second half (19.8km time trial from Antibes to Nice): 1, C Boardman (GB) 21min 16sec; 2 L Armstrong (US) 21:40; 3 L Jalabert (Fr) 21:45; 4, L Brochard (Fr) 21:48; 5, F Vandenbroucke (Bel) 21 49.

ROAD RACES: Grand Prix of Essex (Halstead, 94 miles): 1, W Randle (Optimum Performance RT) 3hr 35min 50sec; 2, J Ramsbottom (North Wirral Velo) at 3sec; 3, R Hayles (Team Ambrosia) same time. Circuit of the Mendips (Bristol, 62 miles): 1, J Tonks (Parker International RT) 2:35:00; 2, H Lodge (Salisbury RC) same time; 3, B Luckwell (Global Racing) at 1:00 VHE-Pace Trophy (Wensworth, South Yorkshire, 80 miles): 1, R Clough (Stretford Wh) 2:23:33; 2, D Baker (Team GT) same time; 3, A Hornby (Brough Wh) at 35sec

TIME-TRIALS: Porthole Grand Prix (Lake Windermere, 25.5 miles): 1, G Butler (Norwood Paragon) 57:44; 2, S Dangerfield (Parker International RT) 59:09; 3, P Manning (North Wirral Velo) 59:32. Team: North Wirral Velo 3:03:32. CC Breckland (Norfolk, four-up team 50 kilometres): Leo RC (A Stapleton, G Dighton, M Pyne, G Taylor) 1:03:48.

EQUESTRIANISM

's-HERTOGENBOSCH, Holland: Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1, Apricot D (H Simon, Austria) 0 in 26.01, 2, Vink Especiale (E van der Vleuten, Holl) 0 in 26.27, 3, Ita Otto (G Billington, GB) 0 in 30.05 Placings in Western European League for World Cup: 1, H Simon (Austria) 99; 2, F Sloothaak (Ger) 83; 3, L Beerbaum, Ger) 75. British placings: 8, N Skelton 48; equal 17, J Whitaker 36; equal 21, M Whitaker 34; 24, D Lampard 32. Volvo World Cup dressage qualifier: 1, Cameleon Bonfire (A van Grunsven, Holl) 79.48; 2, Jonggor's Weyden (S Rothenberger, Holl) 75.78; 3, Nobils Antony (I Werth, Ger) 75.49.

FENCING

BATH: British Sabre championships: Men: 1, J Williams (Salle Frohlich); 2, K Zavlish (Salle Frohlich); 3, D Sach (Hammersmith) and R Sharma (Salle Frohlich). **Women:** 1, S Benny (Glastonbury); 2, L Bond-Williams (Evesham); 3, S Martin (Millfield) and J Morris (Romsey).

GOLF

DUBAI: Desert Classic: Leading final scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 270: C Montgomerie 67, 68, 67, 68 271: M A Jimenez (Sp) 63, 68, 70, 70 274: R Willis (Aus) 69, 67, 70, 68. 275: F Couples (US) 69, 69, 72, 65. 276: P Baker 71, 67, 68, 72; R Burns 70, 68, 65, 73. 277: C Mason 68, 73, 70, 66, T Bjorn (Den) 70, 71, 67, 69; J Townsend (US) 64, 71, 71 71; I Woosnam 69, 68, 65, 74 278: M Mouland 71, 69, 72, 66; R Claydon 72, 69, 69, 68; J Haeggman (Swe) 68, 72, 69, 69; T Johnstone (Zim) 71, 66, 69, 72. 279: D Hospital (Sp) 69, 70, 72, 68; S Ames (Trin) 68, 72, 70, 69. 280: D Carter 74, 68, 71, 67; H Clark 71, 69, 70, 70; J Spence 68, 68, 70, 74 281: P Lawrie 67, 71, 73, 70; P Mitchell 71, 70, 70, 70; I Garrido (Sp) 67, 75, 69 70; M Davis 75, 65, 70, 71; E Romero (Arg) 70, 70, 69, 72. Other scores: P Broadhurst 66, 69, 72, 72; D Gilford 68, 70, 71, 73 283: D Faherty 70, 69, 73, 71 284: A Cejka (Ger) 69, 73, 71, 71 292: S Ballesteros (Sp) 71, 70, 74, 77

ORLANDO, Florida: Bay Hill Invitational: Leading third-round scores (US unless stated): 206: G Boros 73, 67, 65. P Burke 71, 68, 69. 207: J Maggert 72, 65, 70 208: P Goydos 67, 74, 67; L Nelson 71, 70, 67; T Purtzer 69, 70, 69. M O'Meara 67, 72, 69 209: C Byrum 71, 74, 64, V Singh (Fiji) 73, 71, 65, T Watson 75, 65, 69; W Mayfair 69, 73 67; D Love III 69, 72, 68; W Glasson 71, 70, 68; N Faldo (GB) 72, 68, 69, S Jones 69, 70, 70. 210: S Ellington (Aus) 71, 71, 68, 211: C Pavin 69, 70, 72. 212: Y Mizumaki (Japan) 73, 69, 70. 214: E Els (SA) 73, 70, 71 215: R Allenby (Aus) 74, 71.70; M Kuramoto (Japan) 72, 73, 70; P Allen (SA) 74, 69, 72; B Langer (Ger) 73, 69, 73 216: N Price (Zim) 72, 73, 71, G Waite (NZ) 76, 68, 72.

TUCSON, Arizona: LPGA Ping/Welch Championship: Leading third-round scores (US unless stated): 204: D Ammaccapane 72, 66, 66. 206: C Johnston-Forbes 71, 70, 65. 208: D Eggeling 69, 70, 69; L Neumann (Swe) 68, 71, 69; P Sheehan 71, 66, 71. 210: M Lunn (Aus) 71, 71, 68; K Tschetter 71, 70, 69; 211: B Burton 69, 74, 68; H Kobayashi (Japan) 73, 69, 69; K Webb (Aus) 70, 72, 69, A Sorenstam (Swe) 75, 66, 70; S Turner 73, 69, 70; M McGann 69, 68, 74 212: K Marshall 70, 72, 70. 213: K Davies (GB) 73, 71, 69; H Alfredsson (Swe) 72, 70, 71, 214: A Nicholas (GB) 72, 71, 71; C Mattnew (GB) 72, 69, 75; A Dibos (Per) 70, 69, 75. Other scores: 215: Caroline Pierce (GB) 71-70-74. Trish Johnson (GB) 68-73-74.

JAKARTA: Indonesian Open: Leading final scores: 271: E Fryer (GB) 67, 65, 68, 71. 274: J Rutledge (Can) 72, 70, 68, 64; D Chopra (Swe) 72, 68, 65, 69. 276: A Painter (Aus) 68, 70, 71, 69; 277: J Berendt (Arg) 68, 69, 72, 68; R Todd (Can) 68, 73, 67, 69 278: J Cook (US) 72, 73, 67, 66; J Sedowsky (US) 70 71, 69, 68; D Walsworth (US) 67, 74, 68, 69.

SABAH, Malaysia: Sabah Masters: Leading final scores: 282: T Wiratchant (Tha) 72, 71, 70, 69. 284: J Wagner (Aus) 73, 66, 71, 74; Lin Chih-chen (Taiwan) 70, 72, 74, 68 288: N Kawakami (Japan) 74, 71, 73, 68; 287: D Branscon (Aus) 73, 70, 72, 72.

JAPAN: Shizuoka Open: Leading final scores (Japanese unless stated): 271: Y Sakamoto 71, 72, 68; C Franco (Par) 68, 72, 71; N Seitzawa 71, 69, 71 (Sakamoto won play-off after rain washed out fourth round). 212: E Herrera (Col) 70, 69, 73. 213: D Ishii (US) 74, 70, 69. 214: H Kase 68, 72, 74 215:T Hamilton (US) 74, 75, 68; Y Kaneko 73, 75, 67; T Fukuzawa 70, 74, 71. 216: H Miyase 75, 71, 70; K Kasayama 77, 69, 70; P Senior (Aus) 73, 72, 71.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Pittsburgh 4 NY Islanders 2; Hartford 2 Buffalo 1, Philadelphia 3 Winnipeg 0; Montreal 4 NY Rangers 2; Edmonton 5 Los Angeles 2.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-offs: Group A: Basingstoke 5 Fife 3; Sheffield 8 Nottingham 0. Group B: Durham 3 Cardiff 2. Promotion/Relegation play-offs: Group A: Blackburn 8 Milton Keynes 5; Guildford 8 Bracknell 3. Group B: Slough 2 Manchester 7; Swindon 11 Dumfries 9.

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY: Premier division: Cheadle 21 Hulmeians 3. Boardman and Eccles 14 O Waconians 10: Heaton Mersey 7 Stockport 9; Mellor 20 Pownon 3, Cheadle Hulme 11 Sheffield 9

RACKETS

QUEENS CLUB: Lacoste British Open Doubles Championship: Semi-finals: J Male and J Prenn bt R Wakely and G Barker 15-11, 15-12, 15-4, 15-10; W Boone and T Cockroft bt M Hugh Williams and P Brake 11-15, 15-2, 15-7, 15-9, 15-4. Final: Boone and Cockroft wo Male and Prenn scr.

REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT BRITISH LAND AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: J Snow bt P Jarvis 6-0, 6-1, 6-0; M Howard bt I Snell 6-5, 6-0, 6-2. Final: Snow bt Howard 6-2, 6-4, 6-4.

ROWING

MORTLAKE: Women's Head of the River: 1, Kingston/Thames/Tideway Scullers (British heavyweight squad) 18min 24sec (open winners); 2, Dutch squad 18.40 (overseas winners); 3, Bedford/Grosvenor/Rumcorn/Thames Tradesmen/Weybridge (British lightweight squad) 19min 12.48sec; 4, London University/Tynan/Phoenix 19:12.58; 5, Cambridge University A 19:20 (University winners); 6, Tideway Scullers A 19 31 (club winners); 7, Thames C 19:32; 8, Kingston/Southampton University 19:34 (senior two winners); 9, Imperial College A 19:40. 10, Thames Tradesmen A 19:49. **Other division winners: Senior one:** Thames B 19min 52sec **Senior three:** Cambridge University C 20min 11sec **Novice Club:** Munster, Germany 20 min 08sec. **Novice University:** Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 20min 40sec. **School:** Kingston Grammar 20min 32sec. **Veteran:** Kingston B 20min 56sec.

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: English Gillis Shield: Semi-final: Gravesham 1 Sutton 4, Southern Counties Cup: Bexley 1 Hackney 2. Mid Oxon 6 Medway 1. Meason Trophy: East Berks 1 Oxford 4. Charlton Cup: Southampton 5 Havant 0. London Cup: Hertfordshire 2 Inner London 2. Essex Johnson Cup under-15: Barking 8 Thurrock 2, Newham 2 Harlow 1. Goodhand Trophy under-15: Chesterfield 0 Derby 2; East Riding 1 Hull 3. Yorkshire Trophy: Leeds 2 Huddersfield 4. London Davies Shield: Semi-final: Queens Park 2 Richard Challenor 3 Bachelor Cup: Brent 6 Ealing 2. Guggenheim Cup: Gosport 0 Southampton 3 KW Blood Trophy under-14: Chesterfield 1 Derby 3; East Riding 1 Hull 1. President League: Southampton 2 Gosport 2. Essex Walsh Shield: Barking 3 Thurrock 1; Newham 3 Redbridge 0. St Albans Cup: Dartford 7 St Albans 1. Alder November (7-4 fav); 3, Grohane Quay (5-1). 5 ran

5.05 1, Nathir (5-2 fav), 2, Same Difference (6-1); 3, Mirage Dancer (3-1) 5 ran

5.35 1, Celtic Park (10-11 fav), 2, Chilled (7-2), 3, Gunner John (50-1) 7 ran NR: The Binger

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 1, Dombey (4-5 fav), 2, Cuban Nights (10-1), 3, Rostaq (7-1) 7 ran NR Never Golf Eagle, Nautical Jewel

7.30 1, Hill Farm Dancer (3-1), 2, Heathyards Rock (11-8 fav); 3, Tartan Gem (7-1) 7 ran

8.00 1, Miss Offset (7-1) 2, Mastoamia (4-1), 3, Victim Of Love (13-2) Principal Boy 3-1 fav 9 ran

8.30 1, Backview (9-1), 2, Comtec's Legend (12-1), 3, Swordfang (14-1) Lear Dancer 9-4 fav 12 ran

9.00 1, Dhes-C (11-4), 2, Mystic Tempo (2-1 fav), 3, Maimo Street (12-1) 6 ran

9.30 1, Explosive Power (4-1), 2, Golden Touch (3-1 fav), 3, Zahid (11-2) 13 ran

LINGFIELD PARK

2.25 1, Shortlimuir (6-4 fav); 2, Tukano (13-8), 3, Friendly House (9-1) 7 ran

3.00 1, Bendor Mark (3-1 jf-fav), 2, Brithwick Bobble (33-1), 3, Flimsy Truth (9-2), Master Hunter 3-1 jf-fav 14 ran

3.30 1, Tickerty's Gift (9-4 fav), 2, Will I Fly (9-2), 3, Keen To The Last (5-2), 6 ran

4.05 1, Johnstons Buck (11-4); 2, Bright Daily Boy (13-2); 3, Ham N'Eggs (14-1) 17 ran

2.50 1, Wudimp (4-7 fav); 2, Doday (66-1); 3, Duxall Crossett (40-1) 9 ran

3.20 1, Carley Lad (11-8 fav, Thunderer's rasp); 2, Uron V (12-1), 3, Dockmaster (12-1) 9 ran

3.55 1, Richardson (7-2); 2, Astrago (10-1); 3, Northants (7-4 fav) 6 ran

4.25 1, Dark Dawn (11-2), 2, Washakie (7-2 jf-fav), 3, Green Times (12-1). Carousel Rocket 7-2 jf-fav 10 ran

4.55 1, Hyperion Son (6-4 fav), 2, Revilor's Glory (7-2); 3, Flypac (10-1) 9 ran NR Man Of Marcel

5.25 1, Southern Cross (11-4); 2, Mr Tees Components (8-1), 3, Generator (2-1 fav) 13 ran

HEREFORD

2.20 1, Hot Breeze (2-1 fav), 2, Stately Home (11-2); 3, Valeky (3-1). 14 ran NR Mallestang, Orcadian Rose

2.55 1, Dr Rocket (9-2), 2, Monks Joy (9-4 fav), 3, Bez-Avery (5-2) 6 ran.

3.25 1, Star Market (9-2, Private Handicapper's top rating), 2, Corrin Hill (11-2); 3, Lawnswood Junior (8-1) Mead Court 5-2 fav. 8 ran. NR: Supreme Master

4.00 1, Howaryasun (9-4 fav); 2, Ali Woathor (10-1); 3, Sir Noddy (12-1) 13 ran NR: Barn Pool, Shoon Wind

4.30 1, Lying Eyes (6-4 fav); 2, Mariners Mirror (7-4); 3, Handy Lass (14-1) 7 ran

5.00 1, Oscail An Doras (7-4 fav); 2, Asi El Asi (5-2), 3, Pennine Pass (16-1) 7 ran NR, Lumumba Days, Rustic Craft, Super Sharp

5.30 1, Hale Darring (4-5 fav), 2, Coridwan (8-1), 3, Glenbrook Earl (8-1) 12 ran NR Captain Cod, Rugrat, Spring Grass

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: Thailand Open: Semi-finals: A McManus bt P Ebdon 6-5, K Doherty (Ire) bt S Handry (Scot) 6-3.

SPEEDWAY

EAST MIDLANDS BOWL: First leg: Coventry 55 Long Eaton 41

SQUASH

FAREHAM: Akahot Women's Open: S Horner (Eng) bt L Martin (Aus) 9-5, 2-9, 9-5, 9-6; S FitzGerald (Aus) bt S Wright (Eng) 6-9, 1-9, 9-4, 9-0, 9-3 Final: FitzGerald bt Horner 9-4, 9-4, 9-1

TABLE TENNIS

BRIGHTON: English National Championships: Singles: Men: Quarter-finals: B Billington (Derbys) bt C Oldfield (Yorks) 21-15, 18-21, 21-12, 21-13, C Prean (IoW) bt J Holland (Essex) 21-11, 21-10, 21-11; A Perry (Devon) bt A Eden (Warwicks) 21-12, 21-12, 21-18; A Cook (Derbys) bt J Taylor (Lancs) 21-13, 21-11, 23-21 **Women:** First round: A Holt (Lancs) bt S Collier (Berks) 21-8, 21-11, 21-16; A Broe (Berks) bt S Riocco (Essex) 19-21, 21-18, 21-13, 21-7. N Deaton (Derbys) bt L Thornton (Lancs) 21-18, 21-15, 21-13; H Lower (Staffs) bt C Newns (Cheshire) 21-11, 21-9, 21-11, L Radford (Essex) bt M Thornley (Lancs) 21-16, 21-19, 21-18; G Schwartz (Berks) bt C Giles (Devonshire) 21-9, 19-21, 21-13, 21-13

TENNIS

COPENHAGEN: Men's tournament: Finals: Singles: C Pralline (Fr) bt K Carlsen (Den) 6-2, 7-6 **Doubles:** L Pimek (Bel) and B Talbot (SA) bt W Arthurs and A Kratzmann (Aus) 7-6, 3-6, 6-3

INDIAN WELLS, California: Men's tournament: Singles: Semi-finals: M Chang (US) bt M Rios (Chile) 7-6, 6-3; P Haarhuis (Holl) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 6-2, 7-6 **Doubles: Semi-finals:** T Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus) bt B Black (Zim) and G Connell (Can) 6-3, 6-3; B MacPhie (US) and M Tebbutt (Aus) bt T Kronemann (US) and D MacPherson (Aus) 7-6, 6-4 **Women's tournament: Finals: Singles:** S Graf (Ger) bt C Martinez (Sp) 7-6, 7-6 **Doubles:** B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) and C Rubin (US) bt J Halard-Decugis and N Tauziat (Fr) 6-1, 6-4

BURTON ON TRENT: LTA winter series: Semi finals: Men: J Fox (Lincs) bt M Wyeth (Middx) 6-2, 6-7, 8-1, M Ingham (Lancs) bt D Gatenell (Hants) 6-4, 6-2 Final: Fox bt Ingham 5-7, 6-1, 7-6. **Women:** V Caddick (Lancs) bt G Dingham (Surrey) 6-4, 6-3; C Drummond (Notts) bt S Jackson (Lancs) 6-1, 6-2 Final: Caddick bt Drummond 7-6, 6-2.

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Men: First division: Rucanor Jets 0 City of Glasgow Ragazzi 3 (7-15, 13-15, 7-15), BA Mackerega Glazing 3 Paisley Trailblazers 2 (10-15, 15-10, 8-15, 15-12, 16-14); Bellshill Cardinal 3 Kilmarnock 2 (15-8, 16-17, 16-14, 12-15, 15-8), Grange 1 Falkirk 3 (15-10, 10-15, 7-15, 9-15)

Women: First division: Rucanor Jets 3 Clydevalley 0 (15-12, 15-11, 15-13), MCA Cardinals 3 News Ayrshire Kyte 1 (15-8, 9-15, 15-10, 15-3); Stirling Saints 3 Team Blantyre 1 (15-5, 11-15, 15-5, 15-8).

WINTER SPORTS

HOLMENKOLLEN, Norway: Nordic World Cup. Combined: Ski jump (Saturday): 1, B Engen Vik (Nor) 247.6 pts, 2, H Manninen (Fin) 236.6; 3, M Kucera (Cz) 222.1; 4, N Bal (Fr) 220.1. 5, K Ogawara (Japan) 214.9; 6, K Tore Apeland (Nor) 213.5. 15km cross-country (Sunday): 1, J Baard Elden (Nor) 40 02.2; 2, T Einar Elden (Nor) 41.00.8; 3, M Zarucchi (Switz) 42:01.4; 4, H Sklard (Nor) 42:13.4, 5, S Guillaume (Fr) 42:17.3; 6, F Guy (Fr) 42.18.8 **Overall:** 1, Engen Vik, 2, Tore Apeland; 3, Skard; 4, Zarucchi; 5, Guillaume; 6, N Bal (Fr). **Ski jump:** 1, A Mahvic (Pol) 249.4 pts, 2, J Ahonen (Fin) 242.8, 3, M Harada (Japan) 242.2, 4, A Goldberger (Austria) 234.6, 5, R Schanzenberger (Austria) 232.1; 6, J Weissflog (Ger) 228.9. **Final standings:** 1, Goldberger 1,416 points; 2, A Pekka Nikkola (Fin) 1,384; 3, Ahonen 1,054; 4, J Weissflog (Ger) 1,026; 5, Harada 982; 6, M Laitinen (Fin) 914

Cross-country: Men: 50k classical: 1, E Jevne (Nor) 2 hr 32min 29.7sec; 2, K Sorgard (Nor) 2.34 16.1, 3, A Bergstrom (Swe) 2.35 57.0 4, B Dahle (Nor) 2:36.41.6, 5, H Kirvesniemi (Fin) 2:37.22.2, 6, F Valbusa (It) 2:37.35.2. **Final overall standings:** 1, Dahle 1,110 points; 2, V Smirnov (Rus) 1,094; 3, J Isometsa (Fin) 817, 4, A Prokurorov (Russ) 544; 5, S Fauner 508; 6, Valbusa 462 **Women: 30k classical:** 1, N Gavriluk (Russ) 1:29 49.3; 2, L Lazutina (Russ) 1.30.30 8; 3, M Mikkelplass (Nor) 1:30 33.3; 4, S Nageikina (Russ) 1:30.50.7; 5, M Di Centa (It) 1:31.05 6; 6, A Kibbe (Fin) 1.32.14 6 **Final overall standings:** 1, Di Centa 1,004 pts; 2, E Valbe (Russ) 945; 3, Lazutina 732; 4, N Gavriluk (Russ) 717; 5, L Egorova (Russ) 690; 6, S Belmondo (It) 675.

HOCHFILZEN, Austria: Biathlon World Cup: 4 x 7.5k relay: **Men:** 1, Norway 1hr 29min 23.5sec; 2, Russia 1:30:14.4; 3, Belarus 1:30:22.2; 4, Germany 1.30:45.7; 5, Italy 1:31:16.1; 6, France 1:31.33.7. **Women:** 1, France 1:57:28.7, 2, Norway 1:58:11 8; 3, Germany 1:58:54.1; 4, Russia 1.59:43.7, 5, Ukraine 2:00:20.9; 6, China 2:02:08.8.

HAMAR, Norway: Long-course speedskating championships: Men: 1,000m: 1, S Klevchenya (Rus) 1.13.30; 2, A Soendraal (Nor) 1:13.76; 3, Sung Yeol Jaegal (Kor) 1:14 16 10,000m: 1, G Romme (Holl) 14:05.46; 2, B Veldkamp (Bel) 14 15.20; 3, F Dittrich (Ger) 14:15.33. **Women:** 1,500m: 1, A Thomas (Holl) 2.04.46, 2, C Pechstein (Ger) 2 05.22; 3, S Zwolle (Holl) 2:05.26

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: Thailand Open: Semi-finals: A McManus bt P Ebdon 6-5, K Doherty (Ire) bt S Handry (Scot) 6-3.

SPEEDWAY

EAST MIDLANDS BOWL: First leg: Coventry 55 Long Eaton 41

SQUASH

FAREHAM: Akahot Women's Open: S Horner (Eng) bt L Martin (Aus) 9-5, 2-9, 9-5, 9-6; S FitzGerald (Aus) bt S Wright (Eng) 6-9, 1-9, 9-4, 9-0, 9-3 Final: FitzGerald bt Horner 9-4, 9-4, 9-1

TABLE TENNIS

BRIGHTON: English National Championships: Singles: Men: Quarter-finals: B Billington (Derbys) bt C Oldfield (Yorks) 21-15, 18-21, 21-12, 21-13, C Prean (IoW) bt J Holland (Essex) 21-11, 21-10, 21-11; A Perry (Devon) bt A Eden (Warwicks) 21-12, 21-12, 21-18; A Cook (Derbys) bt J Taylor (Lancs) 21-13, 21-11, 23-21 **Women:** First round: A Holt (Lancs) bt S Collier (Berks) 21-8, 21-11, 21-16; A Broe (Berks) bt S Riocco (Essex) 19-21, 21-18, 21-13, 21-7. N Deaton (Derbys) bt L Thornton (Lancs) 21-18, 21-15, 21-13; H Lower (Staffs) bt C Newns (Cheshire) 21-11, 21-9, 21-11, L Radford (Essex) bt M Thornley (Lancs) 21-16, 21-19, 21-18; G Schwartz (Berks) bt C Giles (Devonshire) 21-9, 19-21, 21-13, 21-13

TENNIS

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WINTER SPORTS

**HOLMENKOLLEN, Norway: Nordic World

Rough Quest taken out of National

By Julian Muscat

CONNECTIONS of Rough Quest, who beat all bar Imperial Call in the Cheltenham Gold Cup last week, yesterday dismissed what appeared to be a winning opportunity in the Martell Grand National by withdrawing their horse from the equation a week on Saturday.

The complexion of the Grand National will change considerably if Jodami, due to carry top weight of 11st 7lb, fails to make the line-up. Peter Beaumont, who trains Jodami, assesses the 11-year-old's prospects as "no better than 50-50" after the throat infection that denied him an outing in the Gold Cup.

Rough Quest, the proverbial certainty with a mark of just 9st 12lb, will instead be aimed at the Irish Grand National seven days after Aintree. The Terry Casey-trained horse will almost certainly be allocated the maximum 12 stone at Fairyhouse after his official rating soared by 19lb in the wake of his improved showing at Cheltenham.

"The horse couldn't be better after the Gold Cup, but we will definitely miss the National," Casey said yesterday. "It may sound a bit soft but I'd hate to take the risk. I've discussed it with his owner, Andrew Wates, and we are both in agreement. We don't want to take the chance that something might go wrong."

Jodami, who has been cantering throughout his illness, yesterday completed a ten-day medication course and is to resume faster work this week.

However, the Irish National affords Beaumont more time to prepare his former Gold Cup winner. "The horse has brightened up considerably but there is less than two weeks to Aintree," the trainer said. "There must be a question mark for a race as demanding as the National. We will step up his work this week and see how he is, but it won't be the end of the world if we have to wait for Ireland."


ED BYRNE

Killeshin and Sean Curran were unscathed after a crashing fall in the Midlands Grand National at Uttoxeter on Saturday

With Tim Forster confirming Dublin Flyer an Aintree absentee yesterday, Jodami's defection would notionally promote last year's winner, Royal Athlete, to the top of the handicap. But the Jenny Pitman-trained horse, plagued by setbacks and unraced this term, is far from certain to take his chance.

Any significant rise in the weights would greatly favour the Tom Tate-trained Lo Stregone. At present 8lb out of the handicap, Lo Stregone is a 7-1 chance with Ladbrokes.

In the circumstances, the burden of top weight may pass to Young Hustler. Trained by Nigel Twiston-Davies, Young Hustler showed a zest previously lacking this term when fifth, beaten 26 lengths, in the Gold Cup. "That was the first time he had his favoured [good] ground in a long time," said Twiston-Davies, who also plans to saddle Captain Dibble in the Aintree spectacular.

"Young Hustler is fine after the Gold Cup," the trainer continued. He won over the big fences in November but he's been to the National with a favourite's chance for the last two years and things have gone wrong. I just hope nothing gets in his way."

Before the National is contested there is the not inconsequential matter of the £4 million Dubai World Cup, to be run on dirt at Nad Al Sheba racecourse a week on Wednesday.

Runners from six countries were in the field released yesterday, among them Pentire and Needle Gun from Britain. France is to be represented by Pennekamp, but the contest essentially revolves around the Breeders' Cup Classic winner, Cigar, who overcame a minor hoof ailment to journey to Dubai on Saturday.

Ladbrokes yesterday gave supporters of Cigar every incentive to back their fancy, quoting the Bill Mott-trained phenomenon at evens. They then bet: 5-1 Halling, 6-1 Pentire, Tamayaz, 10-1 Dare And Go, L'Carriere, Pennekamp, 12-1 bar.

"Cigar might just be vulnerable," the firm's Mike Dillon said. "He faces a long journey, runs on a different racing surface and comes into the race off a small injury," Dillon ventured. "The Dubai-trained horses may not be the best but they have home advantage."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: DUKE OF PERTH (4.20 Newcastle)

Next best: Donjuan Collonges (4.50 Newcastle)

Milkman delivers winner

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

MILK might not be delivered by horse and cart anymore, but at least one milkman, Cyril Moate, retains his interest in horsepower.

Moate runs a 175-acre Somerset farm and delivers doorstep pints in Bridgwater, but his first love is point-to-pointing. On Saturday he was the toast of the **Quantock Staghounds'** meeting at Cothelstone where one of the horses he owns, West Quay, beat Butler John to win the Land Rover men's open.

West Quay, who was ridden by Philip Hobbs's assistant, Joe Creighton, missed last season through injury, so credit is due to his trainer, Tim Long, for getting the ten-year-old fit enough to win first time out. A hunter chase is now on the agenda.

Long also won the opening hunt race with the Linda Blackford-ridden Fly The Wind, and, with a dozen horses at his Over Stowey yard, he seems sure to add more successes. A former cavalry instructor in the Life Guards, Long is a man who loves the job of training horses.

"My background is with event horses, but this is such a fantastic sport and I have been lucky enough to get some very good owners," Long said. Getting West Quay fit had been achieved through "a lot of hill work", he added.

The hills in question are the Quantocks, which make a superb backdrop to the course, in use for the first time on Saturday after the closure of Williton.

Anyone who rode a winner was happy to praise the new track, but Joe Tizzard, 16, will have fond memories after a double on Qualitair Memory and The Jogger, both owned by his father, Colin. Tizzard, from Milborne Port in Dorset, is still at school and is now clear in the race to be national novice champion with four wins.

Andrew Parker, a former winner of the award, continued his attempt at the senior title with his fourteenth win on Drakewrath at the Eglinton meeting. Polly Curling's New Forest Buckhounds' double meant that she led the ladies' title race on Saturday night with 12 winners, while Pip Jones moved to ten, one ahead of Alison Dare, with a brace at the Gelligaer Farmers'.

POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (Horseheath): Hunt: 1, Way Of Life (J Ferguson, 6-4) 4 ran. PPORA: 1, Lucky Chrisiopher (G Tarry, 2-7 fav) 7 ran Confined: 1, Jimmy Mac Jimmy (C Ward-Thomas, 25-1) 5 ran Open: 1, Copper Thistle (P Taiano, 1-8 fav), 3 ran. Ladies: 1, Richard Hunt (Miss L Rowe, 4-7 fav) 4 ran Restricted: 1, Parkers Hills (S Sporborg, 25-1) 10 ran Open Mdn I: 1, Canadian Boy (A Tutton, 7-2) 12 ran Open Mdn II: 1, Alias Silver (Miss H Irving, 9-4) 10 ran

EGLINTON (Lanark): Hunt: 1, Hamilton Lady (M Smith, 4-5 fav) 2 ran Confined: 1, Master Kit (J Billinge, 2-1 fav), 10 ran Ladies: 1, Ready Steady (Mrs K Hargreave, 6-4) 10 ran Open: 1, Wally Wrekin (R Ford, 6-1) 6 ran Rest: 1, Drakewrath (A Parker, 7-4 fav) 12 ran Open Mdn I: 1, Bowlands Himself (R Ford, 5-2) 7 ran Open Mdn II: 1, Solwaysands (R Ford, 3-1) 10 ran.

GELLIGAER (Magor): Hunt: 1, Bay Leader (Miss E Tamplin, 3-1), 5 ran. PPOA: 1, African Bride (Miss P Jones, 1-3 fav) 7 ran. Confined: 1, La Mezeray (Mrs J Hawkins, 4-6 fav), 8 ran. Mixed Open: 1, Lighten The Load (A Wintle, 6-4), 5 ran. Intermediate: 1, Lucky Ole Son (Miss P Jones, 9-4 fav) 5 ran. Maiden I: 1, Icecapade (S Blackwell, 9-4 fav), 9 ran. Mdn II: 1, The Fun Of It (E Williams, 3-1)

HOLDERNESS (Dalton Park): Hunt: 1, Grey Hussar (S Walker, 8-15 fav), 3 ran. Confined: 1, Tobin Bronze (R Edwards, 2-1 fav), 10 ran. Open: 1, Zam Bee (N Bell, 8-11 fav) 9 ran. Ladies: 1, Peajade (Miss J Wormall, 5-4 fav), 8 ran. BFSS: 1, Rambling Lord (T Betteridge, 7-2), 12 ran. Open Mdn (Div I part I): 1, Batchiste (A Ogden, 7-1) 11 ran. Open Mdn (Div I part II): 1, Attle (S Brisby, 3-1), 10 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Tom The Tank (C Mulhall, 7-1) 15 ran

NEW FOREST BUCKHOUNDS (Larkhill): Confined: 1, Strong Tarquin (Miss P Curling, 1-4 fav), 5 ran. Open Mdn (5-8yo) I: 1, Master Mano (P Henley, Evens fav) 11 ran. Open Mdn (5-8yo) II: 1, Definite Maybe (T Mitchell, 4-5 fav) 6 ran. Open Mdn (5-8yo) III: 1, Apaturus King (T Mitchell, 2-1 fav), 12 ran. Mixed Open: 1, Daringly (Miss O Elwood, 4-1) 8 ran. Intermediate: 1, Desert Waltz (Miss P Curling, 7-4), 11 ran. Rest I: 1, Dusky Day (Mrs N Sheppard, 5-2), 7 ran. Rest II: 1, Always Great (Dr P Pritchard, 20-1), 9 ran. Hunt: 1, Quiet Confidence (Miss D Stafford, 4-5 fav) 4 ran.

QUANTOCK STAGHOUNDS (Cothelstone): Hunt: 1, Fly The Wind (Miss L Blackford, Evens fav), 8 ran. Ladies: 1, Celtic Sport (Miss S Kirkpatrick, 2-1), 5 ran. Land Rover Open: 1, West Quay (J Creighton, 6-1) 7 ran. Confined: 1, Qualitair Memory (J Tizzard, 7-4) 12 ran. Rest: 1, The Jogger (J Tizzard, 9-4) 12 ran. Mdn I: 1, Father Fleitery (I Dowrick, Evens fav), 13 ran. Mdn II: 1, Swansea Gold (D Alers-Hankey, 20-1), 10 ran.

Lord of the ring survives carnage in betting swamp

To deny punters their flutter is to create a swell of pent-up energy. When the weather curtails racing, as it has in this truncated season, their resolve stiffens accordingly. Well, the dam broke during Cheltenham week. The betting ring was awash with money — and punters were vanquished in the swamp when a solitary favourite in 20 survived its billing.

Only those high in the animal kingdom prospered in the swamp, a dangerous pasture at the best of times. It is no place for the meek. The tweed-clad gazelles from London, occasionally picking at the fringes, were swallowed whole. Their fivers on the favourites were easy prey for the vultures sporting satchels. The big game was to come later.

Soldier ants from David Nicholson's nest fared no better. Their loyalty proved their undoing. Bristling with energy after Tuesday's reversals, they toiled in vain through Wednesday. By Thursday, their formation had collapsed. Their armour was stripped bare. They were without purpose, disorientated beyond recall, crushed beneath the gathering stampede.

At least they lasted all three days. Not so the chickens, rendered headless by the apocalypse of Alderbrook on the opening day. Infused by panic, bloodied beyond hope, they strutted this way and that to be claimed, inevitably, by the vulture's talon.

Even the hyenas went hungry. Try as they might, these selective scavangers, the value merchants, were routed at every manoeuvre. Their strategy was to ignore prized scalps like Mr Mulligan and One Man. In concentrating on lesser pickings, they, also, were victims on traditionally fertile ground.

The cause of this carnage was the Irish lion. He returned to the pasture starved of notable scalps, although sated in previous years by more than adequate pickings. Clear of purpose, and leaner than before, he hunted keenly on Tuesday. And he, too, was denied when Danoli, the proudest of all, was outmanoeuvred and outrun.

Wednesday brought little improvement to the lion's mood, when Sound Man, to be sure, was his preferred target. Although Klairon Davis sustained him, his hunger was by now insatiable. He laid low until dusk descended. Then, with reflexes sharpened and stomach turning, he struck one savage blow. Wither or which way he pounced, no beast knew; least of all the vultures.

The lion awoke on Thursday with a burning scent in his nostrils. Again he bided his time, and again he struck with purpose. The call sounded for this imperial beast, who restored his place in the hierarchy with brio. Meanwhile, the injured elephant looked on, happy to concede space to the Irish lion.

The elephant and the lion were soul mates; two animals content with equal rights to the swamp's apex. Previously the elephant had ruled, but this time, wounded early, he had taken a step back. Now inspired by the lion, he struck out with a terrible vengeance.

If hunters of foxes are common, this foxhunter was to prove the exception. J. P. McManus, elephantine in wallet and daring, knew beyond doubt it was his last chance. He required no second prompting.

Nothing, least of all vultures, should question the elephant's status in the kingdom. For McManus is the elegant lord of the ring. Along with the lion, he remains the king of the swamp.

JULIAN MUSCAT



Racing commentary

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

2.20 Mill Thyme
2.50 One For The Pot
3.20 Northern Squire
3.50 Seven Towers
4.20 **PUREVALUE** (nap)
4.50 Parsons Boy
5.25 My Buster

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.20 MILL THYME.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F fit (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: SOFT — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.20 WELCOME TO TIMEFORM NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,155: 2m) (12 runners)

101	35/442-3	RALLEGIO 11 (G Robertson) P Monteith 7-11-12	G Cahill (5)	83
102	01PG	BRIDLE PATH 20 (G) (F Watson) T Easterby 5-11-6	L Wyer	82
103	05/02-06	HOME PARK 20 (Bahadur & Co) T Dyer 6-11-4	E Callaghan (5)	73
104	34/5-029	TREVEETHAN 14 (K Trevethan) Mrs S Austin 7-11-4	B Grattan (7)	86
105	P-F	SHINING PRICE 13 (R Johnson) R Johnson 7-11-3	Mr P Johnson	–
106	U	TOP FELLA 12 (B) (P Dennis) P Dennis 4-11-2	N Smith	–
107	0-	GLENVALLY 259 (Mrs M Lingwood) B Murray 5-11-1	P Carberry	–
108	3056	LEVEL EDGE 20 (BF) (R Jackson) H Alexander 5-10-13	R Dunwoody	83
109	421P0	MILL THYME 65 (D,S) (Mrs B Pollard) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-13	P Niven	88
110	24U436	DOLLY PRICES 5 (W Smith) W Smith 11-10-9	S Taylor (7)	68
111	F	BRAFFERTON BELLA 10 (P Nelson) J Jefferson 4-10-7	M Dwyer	–
112	P	FINER FEELINGS 33 (D Dunbar) J Wainwright 4-10-7	A Dobbin	–

BETTING: 2-1 Mill Thyme, 5-2 Rallegio, 7-2 Bridle Path, 13-2 Level Edge, 10-1 Treveethan, 12-1 others

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

RALLEGIO 1¾l 3rd of 8 to Kirstenbosch in conditionals handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). TREVEETHAN 2¾l 2nd of 7 to Barnyben in conditionals selling handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, good). LEVEL EDGE 20½l 5th of 21 to Circus Line in novice hurdle over course and distance (soft) on penultimate start. MILL THYME beat Dolly Boy 1¼l in juvenile hurdle over course and distance (good). Selection: MILL THYME

2.50 WIN WITH TIMEFORM HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,879: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

201	P-4F232	NEWLANDS-GENERAL 16 (D,G,S) (W Hancock) J Fitzgerald 10-12-0	M Dwyer	86
202	312-345	ISSYIN 20 (D,G,S) (Mrs H Brown) M W Easterby 8-11-10	R Dunwoody	90
203	300421	ONE FOR THE POT 9 (CD,F,G,S) (P Davies) Mrs A Naughton 11-11-9	M Foster	89
204	5103-40	REJOINUS 20 (V,D,S) (C Galloway) J Quinn 11-11-7	L Wyer	91
205	111-550	SUPER SANDY 30 (D,S) (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 9-10-12	D Parker (3)	83
206	0053P0	POTATO MAN 28 (S) (C Foster) B Ellison 10-10-0	B Harding (3)	68

Long handicap: Potato Man 8-10

BETTING: 8-11 One For The Pot, 5-2 Newlands-General, 4-1 Issyin, 16-1 Rejoinus, 33-1 others

1995: PERSIAN HOUSE 8-11-11 M Dwyer (15-2) J Jefferson 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

NEWLANDS-GENERAL 11l 2nd of 10 to Valiant Warrior in handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm) ISSYIN 20l 5th of 8 to Mister Diddy in handicap chase at Leicester (2m 1f, good to soft) ONE FOR THE POT beat Balkine 15l in 5-runner handicap chase at Ayr (2m, good to firm). REJOINUS 3½l 4th of 5 to Strong Approach in handicap chase at Carlisle (2m, good) on penultimate start. Selection: ONE FOR THE POT

3.20 TIP-TOP TIMEFORM RATINGS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,369: 3m) (9 runners)

301	400-203	SANSOOL 34 (B,D,S) (A Whillans) A Whillans 10-11-10	B Harding (3)	96
302	0P-6P55	NORTHERN SQUIRE 19 (G,S) (Mrs J Davenport) J Jefferson 8-11-4	L Wyer	84
303	360004	MONARU 54 (D,F,G,S) (R Mansfield) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-13	T J Comerford (7)	92
304	00P310-	GALAXY RAIN 341 (S) (J Haynes) J Haynes 5-10-11	D Parker (3)	90
305	312-9PP	QUIET MISTRESS 20 (C,S) (R Bethell) W Bethell 6-10-11	A S Smith	85
306	4/46-202	CELTIC BREEZE 10 (V,D,G,S) (H Bethwaite) Mrs A Naughton 13-10-6	M Foster	94
307	434/P11	SLAUGHT SON 11 (D,G) (Mrs D Miller) R Fisher 8-10-6	J Callaghan	93
308	0243F4	CIRCLE BOY 20 (Shirley Ltd) W Storey 9-10-1	R McGrath (7)	89
309	46/001-P	DENTICULATA 17 (F) (P Spottiswood) P Spottiswood 8-10-0	F Perratt	88

Long handicap: Denticulata 9-12.

BETTING: 9-4 Slaught Son, 3-1 Celtic Breeze, 5-1 Northern Squire, 6-1 Circle Boy, Sansool, 8-1 Galaxy Rain, 14-1 others

1995: CASH CHASE 7-11-1 M Brennan (9-4) D Brennan 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

QUIET MISTRESS best effort this season 14l 2nd of 10 to Lie Detector in novice chase here (3m, good) SLAUGHT SON beat Valley Garden 1l in 13-runner novices handicap hurdle at Carlisle (3m 110yd, good) CIRCLE BOY best effort 11l 3rd of 25 to Carley Lad in handicap hurdle over course and distance (soft). Selection: CIRCLE BOY

3.50 BET-COMPELLING TIMEFORM COMMENTARIES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,970: 3m) (9 runners)

401	1-11011	SEVEN TOWERS 11 (C,G,S) (Mrs E Wynn) Mrs M Easterby 7-12-0	P Niven	93
402	4-12373	MINFA 65 (D,F,G,S) (Lord Cavendish) J Richards 5-11-4	A Dobbin	89
403	6-4316U	TWIN STATES 13 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs E Burke) J Turner 7-11-2	W Fry	95
404	FP-06U3	BORN DEEP 11 (S) (B Rothwell) B Pollard 10-10-13	P Carberry	91
405	P213/P-	DANTE'S INFERNO 527 (G,S) (J Southcombe) Mrs S Bastiman 10-10-10	T Reed	–
406	0F13-P0	SPARROW HALL 18 (D,F,G,S) (P Hall) J Fitzgerald 9-10-3	M Dwyer	53
407	5 21-0P0	HIGHLANDMAN 20 (CD,G) (Mrs N Foster) J Pearce 10-10-3	B Harding (3)	65
408	6-4F040	INCONCLUSIVE 34 (G,S) (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 9-10-1	Mr K Whelan (5)	90
409	5-06SP5	SNOOK POINT 37 (G) (I Jordan) D Lamb 9-10-0	A Manners (7)	94

Long handicap: Snook Point 9-13

BETTING: Even Seven Towers, 5-2 Born Deep, 3-1 Minfa, 12-1 Twin States, 16-1 Snook Point, 25-1 others

1995: DEEP DECISION 9-10-0 R Supple (6-1) P Cheesbrough 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

SEVEN TOWERS completed double beat Carousel Rocket 3l in 8-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m 2f, good) with BORN DEEP (5lb better off) 4l 3rd. MINFA 25l 3rd of 12 to Emerald Storm in handicap chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good to soft) with INCONCLUSIVE (4lb better off) 30l 8th. TWIN STATES beat other three season beat Stop The Waller 13½l in 11-runner handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm). Selection: TWIN STATES

4.20 NORTHERN ELECTRIC CHARITY CHALLENGE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE FINAL (£10,650: 2m) (14 runners)

501	1541	EXECUTIVE DESIGN 37 (D,5l) (L Foster) Mrs M Reveley 4-12-0	G Cahill (5)	85
502	221541	JOCKS CROSS 12 (S) (Mrs B Harrison) G Richards 5-11-7	A Dobbin	95
503	2-3F14	CUMBRIAN RHAPSODY 19 (G) (Cumbrian Industrials) T Easterby 6-11-0	A S Smith	93
504	212122	STASH THE CASH 10 (D,G,S) (G Shiel) T Dyer 5-11-9	R McGrath (7)	91
505	386331	SHINING EDGE 9 (D,F) (G Graham) T Easterby 4-10-13	L Wyer	90
506	01-4032	MONYMAN 23 (F) (T Hemmings) M Hammond 6-10-12	Mr C Bonner (3)	87
507	5-00512	PUREVALUE 16 (D,BF,S) (A Simmons) M W Easterby 5-10-12	R Dunwoody	97
508	3U35	RAUTSA 17 (Walmerby Racing Bureau) M Hammond 4-10-12	J Callaghan	85
509	233-002	THURSDAY NIGHT 19 (R Haggas) J Fitzgerald 5-10-11	E Callaghan (5)	89
510	02P-402	KNUCKLEBUSTER 12 (S Rankin) R Fahey 6-10-7	M Dwyer	90
511	F23	FASSAN B (BF) (MF106 Racing) M Hammond 4-10-6	P Niven	94
512	3524	TOSHIBA TALK 26 (Toshiba UK) B Ellison 4-10-4	B Harding (3)	88
513	2321F4	DUKE OF PERTH 23 (D,BF,G) (W Black) H Johnson 5-10-6	P Carberry	94
514	16	OUR ROBERT 12 (D,S) (T Fawcett) J Fitzgerald 4-10-4	F Leahy (3)	98

BETTING: 9-2 Shining Edge, 6-1 Executive Design, 7-1 Jocks Cross, Fassan, 8-1 Stash The Cash, Purevalue, 10-1 Cumbrian Rhapsody, 12-1 others

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

EXECUTIVE DESIGN beat Gospel Song 3l in 11-runner juvenile hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). JOCKS CROSS beat Mamulana 6l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft) SHINING EDGE beat Royal Expression head in 9-runner juvenile hurdle at Ayr (2m, good to firm) with FASSAN 2l 3rd. OUR ROBERT beat THURSDAY NIGHT (3lb better off) 14l in 22-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start with CUMBRIAN RHAPSODY (2lb better off) 5¼l 4th. Selection: THURSDAY NIGHT

4.50 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT NOVICES CHASE
(Qualifier: £3,165: 3m) (17 runners)

601	P-28511	PARSONS BOY 18 (D,S) (B Ridge) G Richards 7-12-2	A Dobbin	87
602	P-P1212	CANAILLOU II 7 (BF,S) (M Stanners) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-10	Mr K Whelan (5)	93
603	P-64214	GO SILLY 13 (G,S) (Farrowgraph Ltd) B Ellison 10-11-10	B Harding (3)	92
604	F00U06	DONOVANS REEF 13 (F,S) (Mrs L Marshall) Mrs L Marshall 10-11-8	D Bentley	85
605	0/	ABDULLAH BULBUL 686 (R Bewley) J Bewley 8-11-4	D Parker (3)	–
606	2/5/000	BECKLEY FOUNTAIN 34 (J Henderson) H Johnson 8-11-4	M Foster	–
607	16/40F3	CALLERNOY 11 (S) (Exors of R Lamb) D Lamb 6-11-4	A Manners (7)	62
608	0P4	CAVALLO 7 (Panther Racing) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-4	J Burke	55
609	54-5032	COOL WEATHER 17 (P McDonagh) P Cheesbrough 8-11-4	R Supple	98
610	123/434	MARRA'S ROSCOE 10 (G,S) (Mrs D Hamer) Mrs M Reveley 10-11-4	P Niven	77
611	0/44P	PALM COURT 11 (S) (Miss J Eaton) Mrs L Williamson 8-11-4	B Wynne	83
612	5-23500	TICO GOLD 14 (Mrs S Turner) P Cheesbrough 8-11-4	T Reed	80
613	F4-F330	TUDOR FELLOW 62 (J Wade) J Wade 7-11-4	K Jones	91
614	10F052	DONJUAN COLLONGES 31 (S) (R Ogden) F Murphy 5-11-0	P Carberry	89
615	043544	CARNETTO 20 (G,S) (Mrs R Brewis) R Brewis 9-10-13	A S Smith	94
616	0F340U	GOLD PIGEON 12 (Caritas Promotions) B Rothwell 7-10-13	G Cahill (5)	82
617	P2/2U0-4	HOWCLEUCH 11 (Howcleuch Partners) J Oliver 9-10-13	B Storey	71

BETTING: 7-4 Parsons Boy, Donjuan Collonges, 8-1 Canaillou II, 10-1 Cool Weather, 14-1 Go Silly, 25-1 Callernoy, 33-1 others

1995: MULLINGAR 8-11-4 A Dobbin (25-1) J Charlton 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

PARSONS BOY beat Over The Corrib 11l in 4-runner novice chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good to soft). CANAILLOU II 7¼l 2nd of 6 to Reapers Rock in novice chase at Carlisle (3m, good). GO SILLY beat Call The Shots ½l in 12-runner novice chase at Sedgefield (3m 3l, good to firm) on penultimate start. DONJUAN COLLONGES 3¼l 2nd to Celtic Town in 7-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good). Selection: DONJUAN COLLONGES (nap)

5.25 TIMEFORM LARGE P INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,439: 2m) (12 runners)

1	40	CAPTAIN CHAOS 23 (Miss K Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 5-11-2	Mr K Whelan (5)	–
2		CHILL FACTOR (Miss E Shepherd) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-2	M Herrington (7)	–
3		KIRTLE MONSTAR (R Hood) L Lungo 5-11-2	F Perratt	–
4	D	PRIM REBEL 33 (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 5-11-2	Mr P Johnson	–
5		VIKING LAD (T Jeffrey) T Jeffrey 5-11-2	Mr T Jeffrey	–
6		AKITO RACING (Lloyd Lile, Style) M Todhunter 5-10-11	B Harding (3)	–
7		ARDRINA (J M Pacey) Mrs J Brown 5-10-11	E Callaghan (5)	–
8		CORNIE LEATHART 30P (D Sandiu) Ms L Plater 5-10-11	A Manners (7)	–
9	60	FLOWER OF MAP 105 (T Sweetman) J Eyre 5-10-11	C Elliott (7)	–
10	2	MY BUSTER 18 (Mrs T Hall) Miss S Hall 4-10-8	F Leahy (3)	–
11	4	SIOUX TO SPEAK 11 (G Reed) C Thornton 4-10-8	N Horrocks (7)	–
12	0	WHITEGATES WILLIE 44 (R Bowden) H Johnson 4-10-8	G Cahill (5)	–

BETTING: 7-4 My Buster, 11-4 Sioux To Speak, 3-1 Chill Factor, 6-1 Flower Of Map, 10-1 Kirtle Monstar, 20-1 Captain Chaos, 22-1 others

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
W Bethell	3	5	60.0	P Carberry	3	9	33.3
M W Easterby	11	42	26.2	P Niven	34	136	25.0
J Jefferson	7	27	25.9	A S Smith	3	13	23.1
Mrs M Reveley	31	138	22.5	M Dwyer	11	66	16.7
P Cheesbrough	12	64	18.8	B Harding	6	37	16.2

☐ Pater Noster, trained by Julie Cecil and ridden by Paul Eddery, finished last of nine to Gunboat Diplomacy in Saturday's group three Prix Exbury at Saint-Cloud.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 Intermagic. 2.40 Major Nova. 3.10 Fools Errand. 3.40 Hawthorne Glen. 4.10 Easby Joker. 4.40 Rangitikei.

GOING: SOFT — SIS

2.10 SNOWDROP NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,190: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1	10-2	INTERMAGIC 17 (S) J Fox 6-11-2	S Fox (5)	92
2	4	TARROCK 13 (Mrs M Jones, 6-11-2	D Byrne	76
3	PP/	LB'S GIRL 672 J Long 7-10-11	Leesa Long	–
4	4034	BALLESHAWDDEN 7 B Smart 4-10-8	C Llewellyn	96
5	U5P	SLIGHTLY SPECIAL 17 S Dow 4-10-8	A Dicken	–
6	0	DR FRANCES 67 C Elsey 4-10-3	A Procter	–

6-4 Tarrock, 2-1 Intermagic, 3-1 Balleshawdden, 12-1 Slightly Special, 16-1 Dr Frances, 50-1 LB's Girl

2.40 CROCUS MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,024: 2m 7f) (11)

1	0-00	ANJULITE 65 J Ang 6-11-5	G Upton	66
2	13/0	FRESHMANS ESSAY 44 (G) P Webber 8-11-5	G McCourt	–
3	2/06	MAJOR NOVA 10 (G) N Smith 7-11-5	Mr J Culloty (5)	69
4	60-0	MAYBE MOSES 16 M Ahern 6-11-5	M A Fitzgerald	–
5	000	SOUND FORECAST 19 (S) Mrs S Johnson 8-11-5	R Johnson (3)	52
6	0500	SWISS TACTIC 16 A Jessop 7-11-5	J Osborne	77
7	0-5P	THE WHOLE HOG 105 K Bailey 7-11-5	S Burrough	71
8	P0U	TUDOR TOWN 16 K Bishop 8-11-5	Gary Lyons	91
9	0043	ABINGER 19 Miss M Rowland 4-10-10	A Thornton	85
10	423	DRUM BATTLE 12 W G M Turner 4-10-10	G Bradley	–
11	0	PRETORIA DANCER 72 (B) C Brooks 4-10-10	B Crabb	–

5-2 Abinger, 3-1 Drum Battle, 4-1 Major Nova, 8-1 Akulite, 10-1 The Whole Hog, 12-1 Tudor Town, 14-1 others.

3.10 MARCH NOVICES CHASE (£2,968: 3m) (7)

1	PU01	CREDON 21 (S) S Woodman 8-11-10	A P McCoy	92
2	5413	FOOLS ERRAND 13 (C,S) G Balding 6-11-10	B Clifford	92
3	PF41	GIVENTIME 19 (D,G,S) A Turnell 8-11-10	L Harvey	84
4	-63P	WHO'S NEXT 3 (G,5) J Jenkins 8-11-8	C Llewellyn	73
5	-334	CARSON CITY 73 (G) M Wilkinson 9-11-4	R Greene	77
6	0005	METAL OISEAU 12 (B,G,S) P Ritchens 8-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	84
7	2F4P	MOBILE MESSENGER 17 (S) T George 8-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	84

9-4 Giventime, 3-1 Fools Errand, 7-2 Credon, 5-1 Carson City, 8-1 Who's Next, Metal Oiseau, 20-1 Mobile Messenger

3.40 DAFFODIL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,723: 2m 10yd) (6)

1	1510	NORDANSK 28 (CD,F,S) M Madgwick, 7-12-0	J R Kavanagh	95
2	4006	PETITJEAN 11 (D,S) D Burchell 5-11-1	D J Burchell	95
3	3131	HAWTHORNE GLEN 11 (D,F,S) Mrs M Long 9-10-11	B Fenton (3)	95
4	0202	ARCTIC LIFE 18 (D,6,S) J Jenkins 7-10-11	J Osborne	88
5	04-4	ENTEEAAL 12 (F) J King 5-10-4	S Upton	68
6	131P	ARAMON 111 (D,F,S) M Haynes 6-10-0	D Skyrme	85

6-4 Hawthorne Glen, 3-1 Arctic Life, 7-2 Petitjean, 8-1 Enteeaal, 10-1 Nordansk, 12-1 Aramon

4.10 SPRING HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,765: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1	1F1U	EASBY JOKER 6 (D,G,S) S Kettlewell 8-12-0	M A Fitzgerald	95
2	00	THE WAYWARD BISHOP 93 Mrs L Taylor 7-12-0	P Crowley (7)	–
3	2453	MAD THYME 11 (G,S) N Gaselee 9-11-12	A Tory	95
4	22PP	WOODLANDS BOY 21 (B,C,F,S) R Hoad 8-10-12	Mr J Culloty (5)	89
5

The walls are black, the tiny ball travels at 180 mph. **Sally Jones** tries and flails at the game of rackets

Court of appeal for the fast and the fearless

SPORT FOR ALL

The steep galleries above the huge, black-walled court were crammed with schoolboys intent on the game below and yelling encouragement in between the points. "Serve up!" "Ave 'im out!"

Below them, a slight teenager composedly served a string of winners which died untouchably in the back corner, or wrong-footed his tall, heavy-shouldered opponent in a David-and-Goliath encounter. Even the shots which "Goliath" returned were despatched down the walls with clinical precision as the latest Tonbridge School prodigy, James Parker, diminutive son of the cricket international Paul, showed the bewildering speed of foot and reactions that make arguably the world's fastest ball game look laughably easy.

"It's not so much a match, more like a mugging," whispered one of the watching rackets professionals, awestruck. The match over, Parker, still immaculate and without a bead of sweat in evidence, gravely shook hands with his panting victim and accepted the Jim Dear Cup for the Under-15 Public Schools championship, his first national singles title at the start of what will surely be a distinguished career.

"If a small teenage boy can play that well after only a year," I reasoned, "there's hope for anyone." Not quite true, as I discovered when I had my first taste of rackets in the exalted company of Willie Boone, 45, the former world champion and still ranked in the world's top three. Despite his veteran status, the fiendishly competitive Boone, who has also played county lawn tennis for Cambridgeshire and national standard squash, is still one of the fittest men in Britain. Last season he won five major rackets titles.

Boone is a phenomenon, however, and this is definitely not a game for the podgy and middle-aged to take up from scratch without first undergoing a thorough fitness regime.

Rackets may look like a giant version of squash, right down to the court markings and the scoring system, but it is far faster and more challenging. The hard, white ball cracks around the high walls at speeds of up to 180 mph. Simply contacting it cleanly with the long-handled, round-headed racket is an art in itself — an art which Boone's eight-year-old son, Ned, is well on the way to mastering.

'I thrashed vainly at the ball, which was already past me'

While his father changed, Ned, a county junior lawn tennis player, hit me a string of gentle shots against the front wall, a few of which I returned, though more by luck than judgment. The ball skidded so fast and unpredictably on the polished floor that on the first half-dozen shots I was "cleanbowled", thrashing vainly at a ball that was already past me. Ned, by contrast, seemed to have all the time in the world.

Boone was impressively patient as a coach, despite warnings beforehand from his rivals that even against an arrant beginner, he would sell his grandmother for a point.

As I stood rooted to the spot, slogging blindly in an attempt to generate the sort of power he achieves so effortlessly, he advised: "Keep your feet moving all the time. Stay sideways to the ball and hit slowly, through it. Don't try to change the direction of the ball, so if it comes at you off the side wall, keep your head down and simply hit it back. But remember, 'straightening' the ball down the side wall is always effective, like hitting a good, deep shot in squash."

He demonstrated the serve, standing in the service box and giving the side wall the regulation two taps with his racket ("makes you aware of your position on court") before stepping across to slice ferociously down the back of the ball, like an overarm squash serve. The ball hit the front wall halfway up and veered teasingly down the side wall.

We attempted a simple game, Boone spoon-feeding me by hitting the ball more softly than he had ever done in his life. While I followed his instructions, smoothly sliding the ball back down the wall, all went well. Eventually, a straightforward-looking ball popped up in the middle of the court and I could resist the temptation no longer, stepping in and flailing at it wildly.

The ball flew off the wood of my racket, narrowly missing my eye, hurtled against the side wall, then snicked off the front wall spinning uncontrollably. Boone loped to the front corner and, with impeccable timing, hit the ball deep to the back wall where it died.

We laughed about the compulsion which all novices feel to go for broke, but reflected on the need for prudence. Several players including world doubles champion Neil Smith, the New York professional, have suffered serious eye injuries. Some have taken to wearing perspex glasses. The game's governing body is now looking into various forms of protection.

Through extraordinary forbearance on Boone's part, we reached 13-all. But from then on, his old competitive urges took over. He let fly with a naggingly accurate serve into the back corner that I could only watch in awe, then painstakingly returned my most wayward shots until the inevitable happened: I wound up for a crunching backhand which soared off the handle and hit the rafters. Game to Boone, 15-13.

By then, though, I was hooked and decided to invest in a pair of protective glasses and a course of lessons. The main problem may be finding an opponent foolhardy enough to take me on.



HUGH BOUTLEDGE

Father-and-son battlers: Former world champion Willie Boone gives his son Ned, eight, a rackets lesson



A new court on Tyneside

A game devised by jailed debtors

Rackets, the ultra-fast forerunner of squash, originated in two London debtors prisons, the King's Bench and the Fleet, in the mid-18th century when the gentlemen debtors played for exercise and amusement, often wagering on the outcome.

They knocked a ball around the walls of their prison yards with strung rackets while other prisoners sauntered around, watching the game and cheering on their man. Charles Dickens was evidently familiar with rackets at the Fleet, as he mentions it when describing Mr Pickwick's incarceration there.

Even then the game was the preserve of "gentlemen", albeit those who had fallen on hard times, as Pierce Egan observed when listing several of the public house courts in his *Book of Sports and Mirror of Life*, published in 1832: "there is a good open court at the Belvidere, Pentonville; another at the Eagle Tavern, in the City Road ... but the fault of these places is that the company is not sufficiently select." Pierce no doubt considered rank a more estimable quality that the willingness to pay one's bills.

'It was played by gentlemen who had fallen on hard times'

These days the old distinctions are breaking down, although rackets remains a well-kept secret. It is played by around 3,000 enthusiasts on just 27 courts in Britain, including 14 of the public schools plus the clubs at Queen's in London, Manchester, Hayling Island in Hampshire, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There are also eight clubs in America and Canada.

Although the schools remain the major forcing-ground for young talent, more and more players from a variety of backgrounds are taking up the game, thanks to the growth in the number of evening clubs such as those at Winchester, Marlborough, Clifton, Harrow and Malvern, which open their courts to outsiders out of school hours. Rackets is the fastest and perhaps the most physically challenging of all racket games. A strong background in squash or tennis is a considerable advantage, as this helps the player to pick the ball up off the walls and cope with rapid changes of direction. Basic fitness is also vital because of the speed, footwork and court coverage which the game demands.

The scoring is straightforward and similar to squash, with matches usually the best of five or best ofseven games. Only the server can score a point, and the receiver gains the right to hand-out (serve) by winning a rally. As in squash, the server serves from alternate sides of the court, into the back half of the opposite side. The point is lost if a player fails to return the ball on to the front wall, or hits it out of court (above the upper line around the top of the court or below the tin on the front wall). The first player to reach 15 points wins the game, but if players reach 13-all or 14-all, "setting" takes place. Here the receiver chooses at 13-all whether he will play a first-to-3 or first-to-5 point decider, or at 14-all whether to play a first-to-3 decider or a sudden-death one-point decider.

Safety, for both players and spectators, is an important element as the small, hard ball can rocket through so quickly. Anyone watching a rackets match is advised to keep an eye on the ball at all times, in case it flies up into the gallery. During rallies the marker shouts "Play" after each shot, to indicate that the stroke was good and that the ball is still in play. If a potentially dangerous situation develops, the marker shouts "Time".

Starting to play: The clubs welcome new recruits and most professionals are happy to lend a racket to anyone interested in trying the game. The Tennis and Rackets Association helps to subsidise players under 25. Clothing should be all-white and many clubs insist that players should wear pale-soled tennis shoes.

Costs: A year's subscription to an average rackets club is around £750 for adults and £30 for juniors, although several clubs charge more. Rackets cost around £50 and an average club player might get through four each season. Hire of the tape-covered balls is around £3 per session and players often use up to 15 in a match. Court fees are around £8 an hour and most professionals charge between £10 and £15 for an hour's lesson.

Further details: contact the Tennis and Rackets Association, c/o The Queen's Club, Palliser Rd, London W14 9EQ, Tel: 0171-386-3447. If you want to watch some good action, the Public Schools Doubles Championship is at Queen's on March 20-25.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A desirable part of good bridge is to give the declarer a losing option; but do not do it to your partner — he may take it.

Dealer East — **Love all** — **Rubber bridge**

	♠K 10 2 ♥K 4 ♦J 6 3 ♣A Q 10 6 5	
♠J 8 7 3 ♥7 6 3 2 ♦8 2 ♣J 7 2	N W E S	♠A Q 5 4 ♥A ♦A Q 10 9 4 ♣9 8 3
	♠9 6 ♥Q J 10 9 8 5 ♦K 7 5 ♣K 4	

W	N	E	S
—	—	1 D	1 H
Pass	2 C	Pass	2 H
Pass	3 H	All Pass	

Contract: Three Hearts by South — Lead: eight of diamonds

Against South's Three Hearts, West led the eight of diamonds. East put in the nine and declarer won with the king. South played a trump to the king and ace. East now cashed the ace and queen of diamonds and, hoping to promote a trump trick for his partner, led another diamond to give declarer a ruff and discard. Declarer, though, ruffed high, drew trumps and claimed ten tricks, discarding both his spade losers on dummy's clubs.

There were two errors by the defence. First, as West could see that he had no trump promotion possibilities, he should have ruffed the third diamond and played a spade. Second, East missed a more-or-less certain way to beat the contract. When he won the ace of trumps, it was correct to cash the ace of diamonds, but he should have continued with a low diamond for his partner to ruff. Then, his partner could have played a spade and he could have taken two spade tricks.

How was his partner to know to play a spade rather than a club? East plays the ten of diamonds rather than the four when he gives West a ruff. When giving partner a ruff, it is usual to play a low card when you would like him to switch to the lower-ranking suit and a high card when you want him to switch to a higher-ranking suit.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Alekhine's thunderbolt

Alexander Alekhine was celebrated for moves that shocked his opponents and devastated them at a single stroke. He was also famous for directing his attacks against one side of the board but then finishing off with a brilliant tactical manoeuvre on the other.

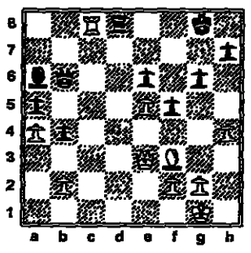
Today's game is one of Alekhine's immortal masterpieces. His opponent, the super-solid Czech grandmaster Salo Flohr seemingly beats off all Alekhine's efforts to demolish his kingside, but just as Black thought he had emerged in safety Alekhine knocks him off balance with a thunderbolt which wins an entire rook.

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Salo Flohr
Bled 1931

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	Nf3	Nf6
4	e3	e6
5	Bxc4	c5
6	0-0	Nc6
7	Qe2	a6
8	Rd1	b5
9	dxc5	Qc7
10	Bd3	Bxc5
11	a4	b4
12	Nbd2	0-0
13	Nb3	Be7
14	e4	Nd7
15	Be3	Nde5
16	Nxe5	Nxe5
17	Rac1	Qb8
18	Bc5	Bxc5
19	Nxc5	Qb6
20	Qh5	Nd7
21	Be2	g6
22	Qg5	Nxc5
23	Rxc5	a5
24	h4	Ba6
25	Bf3	f6
26	Qe3	Rad8
27	Rxd8	Rxd8
28	e5	f5
29	Rc8	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



If 29 ... Qxe3 30 Rxd8+ and 31 fxe3 leaves White a rook ahead, while either 29 ... Rxc8 or 29 ... Bxc8 would be met by 30 Qxb6 with an easy win on material.

British success at Cannes

In the open tournament at Cannes two British grandmasters, Joe Gallagher and the reigning British champion Matthew Sadler, shared first prize with 6.5/9.

Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99.

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☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SQUARSON
a. A gable crossbeam
b. A clerical squire
c. Old-fashioned

SOCMAN
a. A sparring partner
b. Comptroller of a court
c. A chapman

EALDORMAN
a. An alderman
b. An earl
c. A sheriff

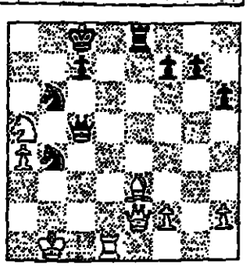
BAGMAN
a. A pipe major
b. A representative
c. A deer-stalker

Answers on page 37

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Duras - Spielmann, Vienna 1907. White would like to capture the black queen on c5 but, at the moment, this would not turn out well due to the pin along the e-file. How did a preliminary move turn this into a favourable transaction?



Solution, page 37

Bold Scot disregards safe option on 18th to make winning Tour return

Fearless Montgomerie lasts the pace

FROM MEL WEBB IN DUBAI

A HUGE roar from the crowd rent the air as Colin Montgomerie slipped in a three-foot putt for a birdie four on the 18th green to win the Dubai Desert Classic here yesterday with a total of 270, 18 under par. Montgomerie raised his putter in unalloyed pleasure as the ball dropped, but he and Miguel Angel Jiménez, his playing partner and closest rival, knew that the pivotal moment had occurred a few dramatic minutes earlier.

Montgomerie, playing his first golf tournament of the season, and Jiménez walked onto the 18th tee with the Scot holding a one-stroke lead. Jiménez was probably expecting that Montgomerie would take the percentage option by laying up short of the lake in front of the green and settling for a safe par with a pitch and two putts. Within seconds, he was to be seriouly disabused of such a notion.

It was the sensible play, the

Scores 30

safe play, but Montgomerie was having none of it as he drew his driver from the bag. He had 222 yards to carry the water and another 15 to the flag. Even armed with the heavy artillery it was a bold ploy, but it was one that succeeded magnificently as the ball flew, and flew, and pulled up pin-high in the heart of the green 15 feet from the hole.

It was a stroke that took even the slimmest element of choice away from Jiménez. If he managed an eagle and Montgomerie took his expected two putts for a birdie, it would be a play-off, which Montgomerie loathes with a passion — he has been involved in five, two of them in majors, and has lost them all. There was still all to play for.

Jiménez had outdriven his opponent, and hit the back of the green with a three-wood. With feet in bunker and ball in light, fluffy rough, he had to hole the chip shot. He gave it all he had, but the ball pulled up six feet short. When Montgomerie put his putt to within three feet, the tournament was won and lost, and Montgomerie had claimed the tenth European Tour victory of his career.

It was the end of an 18-hole tussle that had long since been distilled into matchplay, head-to-head and no quarter asked or given.

Montgomerie has shown in this tournament that the slimming and fitness programme that he has endured since the turn of the year, and which has seen him lose two stone, has done nothing to blunt the cutting edge of his game. He hit the ball as well as he has ever hit it, and the result stood in mute but eloquent witness to the excellence of his golf. He had only one bogey on each day and was the only man in the field to beat 70 in all four rounds.

"On the last hole I told myself that I'd been second often enough, that I didn't want to be second again, and that this was the moment to go for it," he said. "To say I'm delighted is an understatement."

If the 18th hole provided the tournament with as dramatic a climax as its organisers could have wished for, then the 7th was, in its way, no less important to Montgomerie's success.

Shots had already been swapped by the two central characters when they arrived at the 178-yard, par-three hole, and Jiménez still held the one-stroke lead with which he had gone into this final day. A few minutes later the positions were reversed after Montgomerie hit a six-iron to ten feet and made the birdie putt while the Spaniard three-putted from 25 feet for a bogey, one of three in his round.

Jiménez probably still felt reasonably confident as he walked away from that green. He was not beaten yet. Not, surely, with 11 holes to play. Not, surely, against a man playing his first tournament of the season. Not, surely, even if his name was Colin Montgomerie. He was wrong; sadly, badly wrong. He really should have known better.

STEPHEN MUNDAY/ALLSPORT



Montgomerie displays the magnificent trophy that went with victory in the Dubai Desert Classic yesterday

Leaders facing up to weighty task

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

TWO sizeable figures were leading going into the last round of the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando yesterday, but the winner was expected to come from the men with the substantial records massed behind them.

Patrick Burke and Guy Boros, two amiable souls who grew up together in south Florida, were out in front, on 206, ten under par, but of the 21 players within five shots of the leaders, seven had won major championships. They included Larry Nelson on 208, Nick Faldo and Tom Watson on 209, Steve Elkington, the US PGA champion, on 210, and Corey Pavin, the irrepressible US Open champion, on 211.

Burke and Boros were in for a hectic, emotional day, whatever the result. Neither has won on the US tour, although Burke won twice in Australia two years ago and Boros, son of the late Julius, twice a US Open champion, had won twice in Canada.

The bearded Burke, only 5ft 5in but another of fuller figure, has a suitably jaunty leprechaunish air. He was a St Patrick's Day baby 34 years ago and said: "My mom wanted to call me Brian but the rest of the hospital named me."

Bernhard Langer was looking a serious threat to Burke and Boros, and would have been an even greater one had his putting matched his iron play. Out early on a breezy morning, the German went out in 33, to move to four under par. He then birdied the 11th, 12th and 13th, to move to seven under, but he could easily have been ten under.

Having chipped in from 25 feet at the long 6th for his third birdie in four holes, Langer hit a four-iron to six feet at the short 7th, was ten feet from a hole-in-two at the 8th and six feet away at the 9th, but missed all three putts.

The miss at the 9th, a long par four of 467 yards, was the most galling, for Langer had hit a superb shot after watching Nick Price, his playing partner, hole a three-iron for an unlikely eagle two, to go three under.

Tuning in to new primary programme

BY JOHN GOODBODY

GOOD skills are best learnt young. Probably no strategy for sport has been better targeted than the package of sports equipment and coaching for primary schools, which will begin nationwide next month. The National Junior Sports Programme will cost £6.2 million in eventually covering all 20,000 primary schools, the largest sum given to schools sport in Britain.

The action follows both the Prime Minister's statement last July that he wanted to revive the playing of sport in state schools, and the survey by the Sports Council in 1994, which revealed a fall in the amount of physical activity being done by youngsters.

The programme, which will also go to youth organisations, governing bodies of sport, local authorities and clubs, will cost £14 million. The cash will come from the National Lottery, sponsorship and the Sports Council.

The scheme is divided into two parts, Top Play and Top Sport, both of which can be done indoors or out. All schools get a large bag, containing equipment such as bats, small rackets and balls and a set of activity cards. There will also be special training for teachers.

Top Play, for four to seven-year-olds, will aim to develop core skills such as co-ordination, ball skills and teamwork. Top Sport, for seven to 11-year-olds, will introduce children to games, leading up to mini-versions of seven sports: hockey, netball, cricket, rugby, tennis, table tennis and basketball, with athletics, swimming, squash and football to be added shortly. This will blend in with other physical education activities such as dance and gymnastics.

Although 2,000 schools will start the scheme next month, it has already been introduced to several, who have acted as pilots for their local authorities. Grove Junior School, Hertfordshire, is among them and Sue McGonagle, the acting head, welcomes the programme. "The equipment is lovely — nice and bright — but what is so valuable is the card system, which gives pupils the ability to be independent."

The 212 children at the school are given activity cards depicting specific tips and techniques. They learn for themselves, with the teacher having a supervisory role.

The skills are adaptable to other sports and activities and the techniques become more refined as the pupils get older. In Top Play hockey, for example, the youngest pupils are able to use both sides of the plastic stick as they are introduced to basic manipulative skills. By the time that they move on to Top Sport, at the age of seven, the back side of the stick is padded, thus encouraging the pupils to hit with just the face.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Julie Whelan, physical education adviser for Hertfordshire, said: "When pupils go to their secondary schools, the teachers will know exactly what they have already done. If pupils move home and go to a new school, they can automatically slot in to the programme."

Liz Rogers, the physical education co-ordinator at Grove, is most enthusiastic about the programme. "You do not have to be brilliant at sport to enjoy this scheme," she said. "You just use the more elementary cards and progress from a simple basis. However, there is no doubt that it is the competitive element that keeps everyone going."

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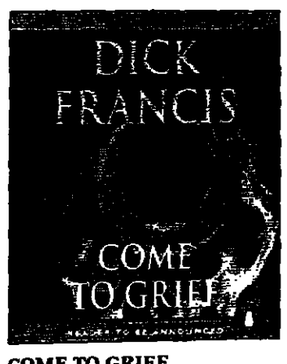
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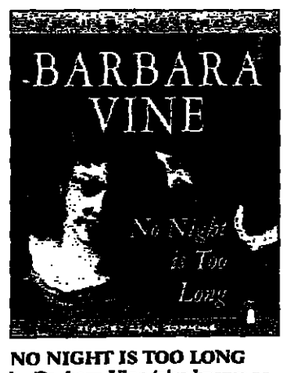
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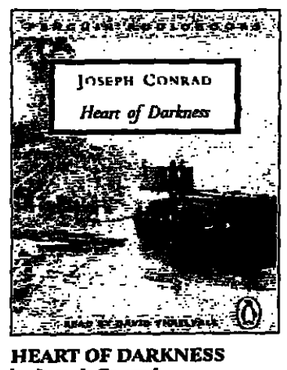
A POSTILLION STRUCK BY LIGHTNING by Dirk Bogarde, read by the author (3 hours).
The best actor-biographer of the late 20th century is modest, romantic and funny starring in his own story. He evokes an idyllic childhood, the harsh realities of life in Glasgow, where he was an aspiring artist and his first steps as an actor. A writer and reader of exceptional talent.



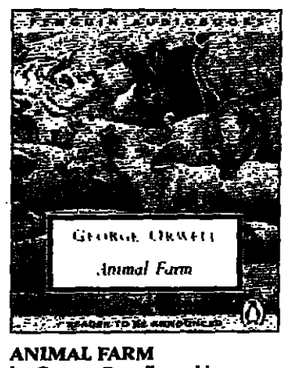
COME TO GRIEF by Dick Francis, read by Mick Ford (3 hours). Another intriguing murder mystery by the former jockey and racing journalist. Popular Sid Halley is back, but in this tale it is a good friend who has committed an appalling crime. On the morning Sid is called as a witness at his friend's trial, other people's miseries explode in his face.



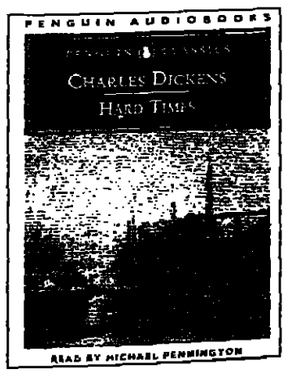
NO NIGHT IS TOO LONG by **Barbara Vine** (also known as Ruth Rendell), read by Alan Cumming (3 hours). Timothy Cornish is a young man with a golden future until he meets a palaeontologist at the same university and the course of his life begins to run out of control. Whether as Barbara Vine or Ruth Rendell, the author always guarantees an intriguing story.



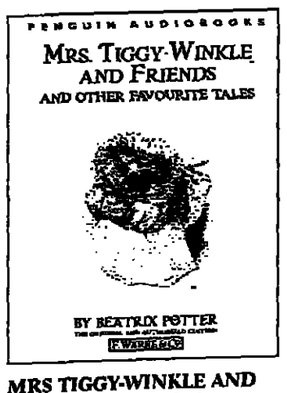
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A disturbing and challenging novel written by a consummate storyteller during a fertile period in his life. A richly symbolic work of fear, hostility, corruption and unrestrained violence in Africa that radically addresses political imperialism and questions contemporary sensibilities.



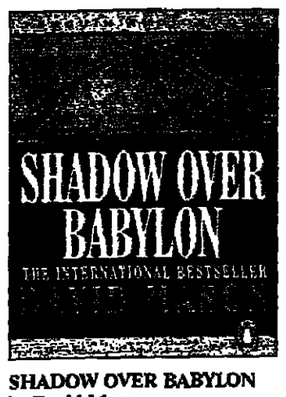
ANIMAL FARM by **George Orwell**, read by Timothy West (4 hours).
This simple and tragic fable, compelling to children and adults alike, tells what happens when the animals of Manor Farm overthrow the farmer, Mr Jones. They begin with the highest ideals but soon start behaving just like humans when they discover that power corrupts.



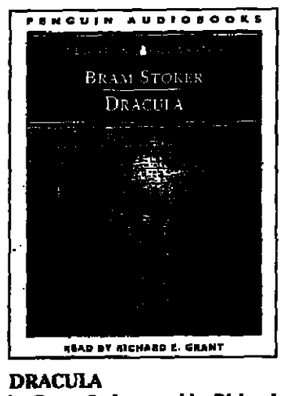
HARD TIMES by **Charles Dickens**, read by Michael Pennington (3 hours).
Dickens's withering portrait of a Lancashire mill town in the 1840s is also a dazzling work of political satire. This novel, though a serious and radical exposé of the hypocrisy of pompous self-made industrialists and harsh disciplinarians, illustrates there is always a ray of hope.



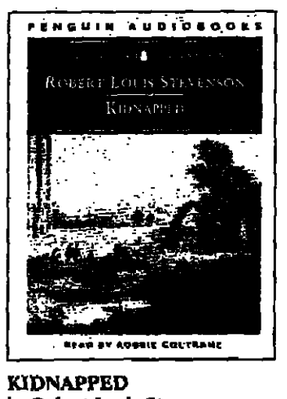
MRS TIGGY-WINKLE AND FRIENDS by **Beatrix Potter**, read by Michael Hordern, Janet Maw, Patricia Routledge and Timothy West, with specially composed music by Carl Davis (2 hours).
The pleasures of these timeless tales of the family life of a community of small animals continue to be enjoyed by millions of children all over the world.



SHADOW OVER BABYLON by **David Mason**, read by Bob Peck (3 hours).
When a government minister calls a prominent newspaper tycoon, who makes a few calls of his own before dying in mysterious circumstances, the plot to assassinate Saddam Hussein is underway. This is a novel packed with suspense, drama and the ruthless pursuit of a murderer.



DRACULA by **Bram Stoker**, read by Richard E Grant (3 hours).
With its interwoven themes of desire, immortality and intense romance, this chilling horror story never loses its appeal. When a young solicitor is sent to Transylvania he is imprisoned by his host, Count Dracula, the legendary vampire, who wants the blood of the young man's fiancée.



KIDNAPPED by **Robert Louis Stevenson**, read by Robbie Coltrane (3 hours).
Set in the aftermath of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, this is the story of a young man tricked out of his inheritance who survives attempted murder, kidnap and shipwreck. Conflicts and misunderstandings with his travelling companion illustrate two strands of Scottish culture.

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Capitalisation, week's change

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Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,978.00	Allied Domecq	480½	+ 22½	6.1	17.4
300.40	Bulmer (H P)	560	+ 7	3.7	17.9
69.40	Burn Stewart	117	- 2	5.3	25.2
8,868.10	Diageo	423½	- 1½	4.4	18.2
9,471.60	Edrington	467½	+ 5½	3.8	14.5
462.30	Highland Dist	347	- 14	3.8	15.7
189.00	Macallan-Glen	161	- 1	1.0	35.7
86.70	Macdn Morn 'A'	633	- 3	2.2	17.6
616.50	Matthew Clark	999	- 3	3.9	..
31.10	Mayfair W	102	- 1	2.5	..
6,645.40	SA Breweries	2269½	- 43½	1.5	32.2

BANKS

9,464.10	ABN-AMRO	3121½	+ 34½	4.1	11.7
7,113.60	Abbey Nat	838½	- 26½	5.0	10.3
2,192.70	Allied Irish	1035	- 15	4.4	..
4,433.00	Aus New Z	319	+ 8	5.2	..
16,648.30	Bank America	4768½	- 218½	..	..
3,504.30	Bank Scotland	545½	- 20	3.1	10.9
11,009.80	Barclays	695½	- 37½	4.7	8.1
2,048.70	Bk of Ireland	495	- 27	4.8	8.5
146.70	Cater Allen	459	- 11	8.3	7.4
24,863.50	Citicorp	5137½	- 82½	..	..
426.10	Close Bros	949	- 29½	3.2	15.5
5,257.10	Commerzbk	6146½	- 321½	3.6	..
39,447.00	Dai Ich Kan Y	12659½	+ 65½	0.4	..
15,454.40	Deutsche Bk	7250	- 6½	2.3	..
164.90	Espirito Santo	771½	- 3	4.7	10.2
41,025.80	Fuji Bank Y	1416	+ 128	0.4	..
186.60	Gerard Nat	402	- 14	7.0	13.0
412.20	Hambros	253	+ 15	4.8	..
8,439.60	Hsbc	978	- 68	4.7	11.0
17,057.80	HSBC Hk	961	- 62	4.3	10.8
321.00	Irish Permt	385	- 13	3.3	..
38.90	King Shaxson	151	- 3	7.5	11.7
23.90	Leopold J	450	..	5.2	15.5
14,584.20	Lloyds TSB†	2944½	- 239½	3.3	15.8
8,674.40	Nat Aust Bk	997	- 12	7.1	7.9
10,806.40	Nat Westm	809½	- 57½	5.2	8.5
29.00	Rea Brothers	90	..	5.3	24.0
4,227.00	Rpl Bk Scot	522½	- 24	3.9	11.8
1,735.40	Schroders	1189	- 79	1.7	16.5
413.60	Schroders N/V	940	- 60	2.2	13.0
201.30	Singer & Fried	192	- 6	4.5	10.6
5,844.20	Stand Chartd	692½	- 54½	2.3	13.2
26.10	Ulster	98	- 3	3.8	..
8,164.20	Wells Fargo	2156½	- 41½	1.9	..
5,740.10	Westpac	302	+ 7½	4.7	..
26.10	Wintrust	304	..	4.8	17.4

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4.80	Abrdn Sth Hld	40	..	..	..
29.80	Accrd Hldgs	340	..	..	0.7
6,436.70	Bass	730½	- 31½	3.9	16.8
12.50	Bth for the Bst	75	..	2.7	13.6
35.60	Berkeley Inv	171	- 1½	3.9	13.6
363.60	City Centre Rest	195	- 4	2.6	18.4
1,552.00	Compass Grp	453	- 5	1.5	21.8
53.00	Eldridge P 'A'†	268	..	2.2	23.6
99.70	Fitts Jm 'A'	468	..	2.6	18.4
1,619.90	Greenalls Grp	951	- 16	3.2	15.0
267.10	Greene King	680	..	3.5	12.0
34.90	Grosvenor Inter	240	- 2	2.9	16.5
41.50	Groupe Chez Ger	222	- 2	2.8	26.2
64.60	Hardy Hanon	333	- 4	3.9	12.1
3.50	Hazelmere	156	..	4.8	..
96.10	Holt J	3100	- 5	2.3	16.6
267.40	Mansfield	321	- 2	2.2	18.2
389.30	Minton Thmp	344	- 2	2.2	18.2
161.70	Morland	663	- 35	2.2	18.6
30.30	My Kinda Town	132	- 3	2.9	12.9
8.52	Paramount†	5½	..	9.1	6.2
93.00	Pelican Gp	126	- 1	2.4	19.8
161.80	PizzaExpress†	389	+ 18	1.0	29.9
3,011.60	Rank Grp	311	- 1	2.8	32.6
156.70	Regent Inns†	361	- 4	1.9	30.1
3,417.70	Scot & Newc	832½	- 24½	3.7	11.7
97.60	Tom Cobleigh	245	- 2	3.4	39.8
280.90	Vaux Group	278	- 1	4.6	14.4
373.80	Wetherspoon (JD)	348	- 9	1.4	30.7
3,330.30	Whitbread	689½	- 17½	3.7	17.0
479.90	Wolvrhmptn D	542	+ 5	3.0	15.6
138.20	Yates Bros	350	..	3.1	17.1
13.90	Young A	466	+ 28	4.0	19.0

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

4.16	AAF Inds	18	..	..	..
62.00	Abbey	160	..	4.1	10.4
79.20	Allen	240	..	3.1	17.9
197.80	Amec	197½	+ 2½	3.8	20.5
35.50	Andrews Sykes	245	..	..	..
247.10	Ashtead'V	179	+ 9½	1.8	15.5
13.10	Ashtenock	30	..	3.3	7.5
7.83	Bailey (Benj) Con	38	..	13.8	4.8
18.60	Barcon	27	+ 2½	4.9	6.5
451.80	Barratt Dev	244½	- 3	3.8	15.2
560.20	Bastor Homes	180	+ 3	4.1	12.9
350.50	Bellway	394	+ 6	3.3	14.1
6.57	Bellwinch	19	..	..	..
529.40	Berkeley Gp	559	- 3	1.8	12.2
52.40	Bett Bros	149	..	4.5	5.4
50.40	Bpb (Penny)	396	..	4.4	9.6
22.80	Brandon Hire	195	+ 2	2.7	18.7
4.79	Britannia Grp	28	- 2	3.6	9.5
4.26	Br Bldg & Eng	18	..	..	..
136.00	Bryant	120	+ 5	5.3	14.5
41.40	CALA	96	- 1	4.4	10.3
2.30	Campbell & Arm	16	..	..	12.7
5.17	Clarke T	42	+ 3	13.0	..
49.40	Costain	78	- 13	..	..
57.30	Countryside	75	..	4.8	..
69.40	Crest Nicholson†	76	- 1	3.6	..
13.20	Cuccias	74	+ 1	6.4	8.5
16.20	Eve Group†	165	+ 25	6.8	8.9
17.80	Galliford	30	+ 2	6.4	42.2
82.30	Gleeson (MJ)	615	+ 15	2.3	15.5
4.08	Green (Ernest)	50	- 1	6.4	..
81.30	Hawtook Euro	388	- 12	3.6	26.0
407.00	Hemdon-Stead	147	- ½	2.4	15.6
58.90	Higgs & Hill	88	..	5.4	15.6
4.86	Howard Hldgs	185	..	..	14.8
13.90	Jarvis	37½	- 5½	..	..
76.70	Kelby	137	- 6	3.5	13.3
132.10	Laing (J)	338	+ 1	3.9	35.8
43.20	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	107½	+ ½	7.4	..
6.17	Lovell (VJ)	154	..	..	..
50.00	Maunders (J)	200	+ 2	3.6	19.6
109.50	McAlpine (A)	157	- 4	4.8	17.9
82.90	McCarthy & S	84	- 1	3.0	11.7
30.80	Morgan Sindall	92	- 1	3.3	..
64.80	Morrison Cons	127	- 2	2.8	12.4
135.40	Mowlem (J)	77½	+ ½	3.3	..
255.10	Persimmon'A	202½	+ 6½	6.1	..
52.90	Pochins	108	+ 2½	1.9	10.9
94.50	Prowting	121	+ 3	3.9	16.1
33.90	Rainc Ind	18	..	..	..
320.10	Redrow	144½	+ 5	2.8	15.8
5.82	Severn Trent	96	- 2	2.2	10.6
32.00	Sheriff Hidgs†	286	- 9	3.1	10.5
4.47	Sharco	71	- 2	7.0	10.9
117.90	Speedex	365	..	..	..
43.60	Tay Homes	146	..	6.0	10.0
563.60	Taylor Woodrw	145	..	2.8	27.8
146.40	Tilbury Dougls	439	+ 14	6.6	..
7.07	Transcleneuro©	6½	..	..	6.4
9.88	Try Group	14	- ½	4.5	19.7
43.40	Wimpeol	94	..	5.4	7.1
54.70	Wimpey	88	..	6.4	6.2
21.00	Ward Hidgs†	46	..	4.4	6.0
162.60	Westbury	304	+ 3	3.6	15.1
29.30	Wiggins	6	+ ½	..	..
264.10	Wilson (C)	179	..	3.2	13.3
391.80	Wilson Bowden	419	+ 1	3.0	15.3
503.20	Wimpey G	139	- 3	5.1	..

BUILDING MATERIALS

9.79	Alfreghton	13½	..	..	..
1,584.80	BPB Ind	314	- 8	3.7	14.6
39.80	Baggeridge Brk	98	- 2	3.1	9.8
199.00	Baron	35½	- ½	7.0	17.4
13.70	Blockleys	55	+ 3	0.9	..
2,494.60	Blue Circle	388	- 16	4.3	15.4
22.70	Bredon PLC	98	..	7.5	11.1
21.90	Br Dredging	175	- 1	3.4	16.3
92.50	Cmpl	171½	+ 2	3.8	..
1,265.20	Caradon	311	- 3	5.4	10.9
195.30	Caradon pf	310	- 3	5.6	10.9
2.15	Chartan Gp	16	..	..	..
3.10	Dyson (JJ&J)	188	+ 5	2.7	15.5
10.80	Dyson 'A'	78½	+ ½	6.4	15.7
45.10	Evan	169	+ 3	5.3	11.3
20.90	Fibre	163	- 10	..	..
1.95	Gibbs & Dandy	48	..	..	..
278.00	Hanson Grp	198	- 1	3.4	17.4
121.70	Hepworth (J)	317	- 1	3.7	17.5
717.20	Hepworth	194	- 7	6.7	10.5
4.84	Hewdon†	47	- 1	6.4	11.0
23.40	Heyrod Sthn	36	+ 16	7.6	11.5
363.40	Ibstock	338	..	3.0	11.9
40.40	Johnson	37½	..	3.2	11.6
23.70	Lafarge	358	- 1	3.6	14.8
439.00	Marley	168	..	4.6	11.7
189.90	Marshalls	158	- 1	4.4	17.2
512.70	Meyer Int	241	- 2	4.1	11.0
159.60	Newman Tnks	124	- 2	3.6	15.3
153.10	Norcros	74	- 1	5.4	11.1
9.03	Pilkington Timber	18	..	..	..
1,078.30	Pilkington	240	..	..	24.0
259.10	Polypipe	168	- 2	3.0	16.6
2,499.90	RMC Gp	1068	- 31	3.7	13.1
2,138.50	Redland	327	- 12	3.7	12.6
17.90	Ready Mix	108	..	5.6	18.3
70.00	Ruberoid	555	- 1	3.6	12.6
780.70	Rugby Group	170	- 4	4.1	16.1
29.70	Russell (A)	114	- 1	2.6	16.8
195.20	Sig	177	- 1	3.2	13.4
4.51	Smith	55	..	..	..
59.50	Thrmal & Fndl	171	- 1	3.6	13.7
97.50	Tilcon Wrn	136	- 4	5.5	11.1
1,078.50	Tarmac	116	- 4	5.5	13.3
19.60	Titon	47	- 1	4.1	10.3
486.50	Travis Perkins	1330	- 9	2.9	16.5
0.13	Tunnelhouse	2	..	..	..
2,521.70	Wolseley	824	- 16	2.7	15.7

CHEMICALS

536.10	Advanti S Wt	121	- 1	4.4	18.0
697.70	Allied Colloids	139	- 5	4.5	13.2
31.80	Ancser Ind	200	..	2.5	15.7
46.20	Amberley Gp	76	+ 1	3.1	21.9
10,174.40	BOC Gp	1172	+ 968½	3.6	..
4,391.00	BTR	317½	- 14	3.7	17.0
465.70	Bpb	1047	..	4.1	17.1
14,967.40	Bayer DM50	3218½	+ 850	2.7	..
57.50	Brent Chems	85	+ 5	3.0	..
472.10	Br Vita	219	+ 8	4.7	19.4
61.50	Cammy (W)	215	+ 20	4.5	13.6
1,241.50	Courtaulds	458	- 6	4.7	19.7
434.20	Croda	276	- 3	3.5	14.2
21.60	Dodoo	210	..	2.8	20.7
201.30	Ems Elf Evrard	218	..	4.2	13.0
33.10	Evan Cotes	48	+ 2	4.8	14.4
19.30	Gibbon	104	- 3	2.8	28.7
197.30	Hickson	78	- 2	6.7	7.2
13,079.50	Hoechst	6201½	+ 666½	2.6	..
119.20	Holiday Chem	172	- 1	5.8	..
6,667.20	ICI	951	+ 39½	4.1	13.7
417.50	Inspec	213	- 11	4.7	11.4
471.40	Ivplm	1313	- 11	4.6	..
1,268.50	Laporte	1134	+ 34	4.4	11.7
129.60	Morgans	823	+ 1	4.3	14.6
31.90	Mrchem	82	- 1	4.3	14.6
7.71	Micrsteel	15	..	2.3	15.4
97.20	Pknsnt	59	..	5.9	..
544.70	Scapa	336	- 10½	1.1	..
48.20	Sndcliffe Speck	34	- 1	3.4	16.2
854.00	Tate & Lyle	818	- 8½	3.8	13.4
76.20	Wardhme R	1047	- 5	2.6	17.7
118.60	York Chem†	158	- 3	2.6	..
334.60	Yule Cats	330	- 3	3.2	17.5

DISTRIBUTORS

2.00	NBI Loc	97	5.6	10.0
19.20	Adam & Harvey	463	5.5	8.1
5.64	Speedwell	14	5.7	..
70.90	Appleyard	1065	3.0	11.5
9.19	Bbc Br Eng	57½	7.0	..
150.70	BBG Group	371	+ 4	4.3	16.4
46.20	Bond	35	..	..	..
6.44	Blumsy Powel	18	8.7	12.9
3.76	Bospuf 'A'	26	3.5	8.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

4.59	Anglo Utd	0½	..	..	..
504.10	Amistagsds	378	- 5	1.5	17.7
16,694.60	Bnsbrss Hill	976	- 19	2.8	20.0
12,861.10	BTR	3025½	- 8½	5.7	13.3
15,480.00	BAT	1007	- 9	5.7	13.3
278.50	Barkland Ind	184	- 1	3.8	17.9
175.00	Bibby (J)	112	- 3	6.4	9.0
1,657.70	Bowley Inv	654	+ 16	7.6	3.3
742.10	Chubb	305	- 3	3.3	17.4
2,017.10	Cookson	158	- 3	7.3	9.5
18.30	Cossit	158	- 3	7.3	9.5
136.80	Exmoor	148	+ 1	3.0	14.4
89.00	Georgian Hdg	68	- 1	3.0	14.7
9,929.70	Hanson	191½	+ 4½	7.8	9.5
1,201.10	Harrison Cnstld	169	+ 7	6.7	17.9
13,723.20	Hutch Whampo	379½	- 28½	4.4	18.2
3,619.10	Jardine Matth	5694	- 19½	3.5	9.9
4.68	Jourdan (J)	26	..	6.8	7.1
1,619.30	Lonrho	107	- 3	2.9	33.3
107.10	McLeod Russel	175	..	4.6	15.8
385.30	Powell Duffryn	258	- 13	7.0	18.4
33.90	Ropner	145	+ 1	6.9	11.0
3,550.80	Slme Darby	168	+ 6	2.8	15.3
240.60	Stanley	309	+ 5	5.1	14.3
420.10	Swire	473	+ 8	7.3	..
469.40	TT Group	373	- 1	3.4	16.5
3,011.60	Tomkins†	311	- 1	2.8	32.6
522.50	Trafalgar H	482½	..	4.8	8.6
52.00	Turner	52	+ 7	9.6	..
4.43	Jacks (Wm)	41	- 2	2.4	18.6
340.50	Kwik-Fit	196	+ 1	2.9	16.8
351.70	Lex Service†	311	- 5	6.0	11.3
43.10	Lookers A	139	- 2	8.0	..
21.20	Mulbry Gp	13	- 1	6.5	..
48.30	Middlecrest	8	..	0.6	18.4
19.50	Modelstore	37	..	..	5.2
51.50	Modcsin	495	+ 7	2.0	27.8
42.00	Northcrnpss	247	- 7	0.9	19.8
13.10	Pct Fd	147	- 2	6.5	10.5
107.50	Pendragon†	380	..	4.9	14.2
44.80	Perry Gp	177	+ 27	5.8	..
3.40	Quicks Group	169	+ 1	4.8	12.7
17.40	REA	195	..	2.6	23.2
4.43	Rensa	2½	..	..	..
22.00	Rotaprint	69	- 2	3.2	10.0
4.06	Rotary Gp	2½	..	..	..
46.40	SEP Indl	51½	- 1	3.9	12.9
36.50	Salinc	164	+ ½	5.2	8.1
147.40	Time Products	376	+ 1	4.2	16.1
3.15	Toras Hldgs	31	..	9.4	..
129.00	Vardy (Reg)	276	..	2.7	15.2
50.80	Wholesale Pkgs†	355	- 1	4.2	19.3
38.10	Wilshaw	41	- 1½	2.4	9.7
56.00	Wyko	110	+ 5	2.0	..
19.10	Young (H	115	- 10	4.2	13.4

ELECTRICITY

1,186.40	East Midlands†	598	- 7	6.2	8.4
1,238.20	London Elect	727	- 7	6.2	8.3
1,501.00	Midlands Elect	965	+ 2	5.9	9.9
3,221.40	National Grid	1617½	- 4½	6.3	8.6
5,238.00	National Power	1019½	- 9½	6.3	9.5
5,999.80	Nat Power PIP	332	- 12	4.4	9.5
639.00	Northern Elec	636	- 24	6.7	8.0
591.80	Nthn Ireland	415	- 6	4.4	9.3
3,587.30	Powergen	5026½	- 17½	4.2	9.3
3,727.40	PowerGen (P/P)	3078½	- 19½	4.2	9.3
1,270.10	Hydro-Elect†	3309½	- 5½	5.5	9.1
3,253.80	Scottish Power	3469½	- 9½	5.1	10.2
1,310.40	Scotland	554	..	3.4	11.5
786.80	Sth Wales	856	- 9	4.5	8.8
2,182.80	Southern Elect†	856	- 9	4.8	10.1
1,215.80	Yorkshire Elect	789	+ 16	5.8	8.2

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

105.90	Acal	554	- 3	1.7	20.1
181.80	Acorn Comp	202	- 18	..	..
121.60	Admiral	373	- 33	..	..
280.50	Amstrad†	197	- 6	1.7	..
75.00	Arlen	38	+ 1	1.8	13.5
353.30	Astec	1145	- 4	1.4	17.8
138.50	Atlas	515	- 13	4.8	23.0
1,180.70	BICC	337	+ 18	4.8	..
22.30	Beales Hunter	210	..	6.2	21.3
139.20	Blick†	452	..	3.8	13.2
804.30	Bowthorpe	415	- 7	2.8	18.9
6.80	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	28	+ ½	3.6	..
23.20	CML Micro©	125	..	6.7	13.0
25.50	Channel Hldgs	28	+ ½	5.4	12.0
69.70	Chloride	284½	..	1.4	37.1
14.50	Cophthite	71	- 2	5.5	..
105.50	Corp Elect	445½	- 3½	4.2	..
105.00	Cotsdlary	719	+ 11	1.7	24.6
1,514.80	Dasta Sy Sys	692	+ 44	2.9	27.3
632.80	Delta	423	+ 14	4.9	20.6
119.60	Diamond	468	- 2	2.8	42.4
97.10	Dowding Mills	65	..	5.3	17.2
187.20	Dtrck	136.80	..	3.6	31.4
2,343.00	Electrocomps	336	- 8	2.7	32.8
166.40	Exmdis Elect	284	- 6½	2.8	26.5
51.00	Extradata	104	+ 2	9.4	6.3
42.90	Exlopsm Mk	80	..	6.1	8.9
99.80	Exonc Hatcher	211	..	6.2	8.8
646.30	Farnell Elect	630	- 2	2.8	18.0
9.77	Fla Inform	63	..	6.4	10.3
23.10	Gardtnerr	21½	..	4.8	8.6
18.70	Genchemtex	52	+ 7	9.6	..
8.10	Gowrings	68	..	2.2	14.6
26.70	Harris (Philip)	245	..	3.8	15.6
114.90	Headlam A	218	- 2	2.4	19.8
314.60	Hestrayt	597	+ 7	2.5	17.5
4.24	Hunters Tech©	136	..	5.5	35.9
70.40	ISA Intl	176	- 9	3.7	..
1,362.50	Inchcape	958	- 8	3.3	17.8
4.43	Jacks (Wm)	41	- 2	2.4	18.6
340.50	Kmk-Fk	196	+ 1	2.9	16.8
351.70	Lex Service†	311	- 5	6.0	11.3
43.10	Lookers A	139	- 2	8.0	..
21.20	Mulbry Gp	13	- 1	6.5	..
48.30	Middlecrest	8	..	0.6	18.4
19.50	Modelstore	37	..	..	5.2
51.50	Modcsin	495	+ 7	2.0	27.8
42.00	Northcrnpss	247	- 7	0.9	19.8
13.10	Pct Fd	147	- 2	6.5	10.5
107.50	Pendragon†	380	..	4.9	14.2
44.80	Perry Gp	177	+ 27	5.8	..
3.40	Quicks Group	169	+ 1	4.8	12.7
17.40	REA	195	..	2.6	23.2
4.43	Rensa	2½	..	..	..
22.00	Rotaprint	69	- 2	3.2	10.0
4.06	Rotary Gp	2½	..	..	..
46.40	SEP Indl	51½	- 1	3.9	12.9
36.50	Salinc	164	+ ½	5.2	8.1
147.40	Time Products	376	+ 1	4.2	16.1
3.15	Toras Hldgs	31	..	9.4	..
129.00	Vardy (Reg)	276	..	2.7	15.2
50.80	Wholesale Pkgs†	355	- 1	4.2	19.3
38.10	Wilshaw	41	- 1½	2.4	9.7
56.00	Wyko	110	+ 5	2.0	..
19.10	Young (H	115	- 10	4.2	13.4

ENGINEERING

40.20	ABH	29	..	3.0	66.8
267.60	APV	376	- 6	3.2	..
60.00	ASW	72	- 3	10.9	35
171.30	Alumasc†	146	- 4	4.8	10.9
96.10	Aves	153	- 1	3.9	17.2
74.00	Ash & Lacy	160	+ 16½	1.5	17.2
66.90	Atlas Engrg	84	+ 16	4.1	11.8
13.30	Aprtime Metal	18	..	5.3	11.6
1,307.90	BBA	841	..	2.4	24.4
94.80	Bk Group	71	..	2.5	14.4
71.40	BWI	150	+ 4	2.4	15.4
242.20	Babcock	156	+ 3	2.5	14.5
3.25	Bamford (Ch)	13	..	..	..
185.80	Baynes (Charles)	133	+ 8	2.6	..
11.20	Beaufort	29	..	3.4	5.9
7.16	Benson Group	5	..	10.0	..
1.69	Bilton	10	..	5.0	..
282.20	Bodycote	196	- 5	2.6	24.7
1.96	Booth Inds	2	..	..	..
15.10	Bracey	29	..	..	..
75.30	Bredon	41	..	4.9	12.8
3,775.20	Br Aerospace†	1891	+ 27½	3.2	16.1
3,891.90	Br Steel	178	+ 14	5.6	6.3
4.75	Brooke Tool†	5	..	..	..
59.60	Bruce	51	..	..	..
157.60	Bullough†	106	..	2.4	15.6
34.30	Burdand	24	..	4.2	..
197.90	Cmcn Eng	106	+ 1	4.2	13.6
78.80	Castings	45	..	4.4	15.0
92.00	Cavendish Hld	58	..	6.5	9.4
52.90	Chemring	65	..	3.4	16.3
16.70	Chrtr Biomes	9	- ½	3.3	16.7
514.10	Cohmen	306	- 9	3.6	17.0
5.16	Cohen (A)	5	..	10.0	21.0
92.50	Concentric	65	..	6.2	11.3
43.00	Cook (Wm)	179	..	4.9	11.9
179.20	David Brown	217	- 7	4.6	14.2
205.50	Dc	138	- 3	6.1	14.2
37.40	Dnair (B)	100	- 3	3.0	14.2
60.80	Expamount	66	..	4.0	..
947.90	FKI	146	+ 5	3.6	15.8
1.31	Ferran	2½	..	..	..
31.50	Firth Hldgs	47½	..	..	..
87.40	Firth Rocco	76	..	3.6	366
48.50	GEC Ind	338	- 1	2.0	257
6.90	Garton Eng	33	- 1	3.0	13.0
57.40	Gtnwood	53	..	3.8	20.7
34.60	Glanytone	14½	..	4.5	10.1
92.40	Haden Mach	45	..	4.4	13.6
34.40	Hadleigh	39	- 1	3.6	12.8
62.50	Hall Eng	106	- 4	3.8	..
454.30	Halma	1	..	3.7	21.5
40.50	Hampson Ind	9	- 4	5.7	11.1
3.75	Hay (Norman)	2½	..	..	..
89.10	Heenan	131	- 4	3.4	21.4
11.10	Hicks	10	- 1	3.4	36.8
4.85	Hill & Smith	117	- 1	4.1	..
52.40	Hitt Instr©	289	+ 1	4.1	12.7
145.60	Hunter-Swt	285	- 7½	2.3	17.5
44.60	Hydraulics	169	- 4	2.4	18
389.40	Hlbn	368	- 1	4.1	..
11.90	Hydromatics	46	- 1	2.2	..
213.40	Oxford Instr	432	+ 9	2.3	17.1

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: BCE Holdings, Gartmore Smaller Cos Trust, Northern Leisure, Polypipe. **Finals:** Alliance Trust, Argos, Astec (BSR), Brockbank Group, Doeflex, Edinburgh Oil & Gas, Glynwed Intl, Hammerson, Kinta Kellas, MAID, Manganese Bronze, Mayborn Group, Mid States, Pearson, Premier Oil, Royal Doulton, Select Appointments, TT Group, Takare, VCI, Vitec Group, Wilson Bowden. **Economic statistics:** PSBR (February).

TOMORROW

Interims: Adwest Group, Dorling Kindersley, Lucas Industries, Paterson Zochonis, Roxspur. **Finals:** Albright & Wilson, Antofagasta Holdings, Appleyard Group, BSG Intl, Gus Carter, Claremont Garments, Clyde Petroleum, Dawsongroup, Delphi Group, Derwent Valley Holdings, James Fisher, Graham Group, Hall Engineering, Hampden Group, Instem, Kingsbury Group, Law Debenture, Metalrax Group, Meisec, Nelson Hurst, Nottingham Group Holdings, Padang Senang Holdings, Peek, Pemberstone, Persona Group, Psion, Rexam, Secure Trust Group, SIG, Singer & Friedlander, Whatman, Wellington Holdings. **Economic statistics:** Details for gilt auction (March 27).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Beazer Homes, Brunel Holdings, Hollas, Premium Trust, Town Centre Securities. **Finals:** Beauford, Blenheim Group, Brandon Hire, Britannic Assurance, W Canning, Clinton Cards, Devro Intl, Evans Halshaw Holdings, Exeter Preferred Capital, Flextech, Harrisons & Crosfield, Keller Group, Kleinwort Smaller Cos, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Marley, Bernard Matthews, OGC Intl, Richardsons Westgarth, Ropner, Sunleigh, Telspec, Trinity Intl Hldgs, Wassall, Weir Group. **Economic statistics:** Minutes of monthly monetary meeting between Chancellor of the Exchequer and Governor of the Bank of England (February 7), motor vehicle production (February), retail sales (February), M4 money supply (provisional), building society figures (February), BBA monthly statement (February).

THURSDAY

Interims: Gleeson (MJ) Group, John Maunders Group. **Finals:** Abbot Mead Vickers, Applied Distribution, APV, Bilston & Battersea, Blagden Industries, Bruntcliffe Aggregates, Cattles, Colleagues Group, Foreign & Colonial IT, Frost Group, Geest, Guinness, Hepworth, Invesco, Irish Life, John Laing, Manders, Midland Independent Newspapers, Mithras Inv Trust, National Express Group, Quality Software, Rea Brothers, Rotork, Servisair, TDS Circuits, Try Group. **Economic statistics:** Retail prices (February), machine tools (January).

FRIDAY

Interims: Eurovein, Fortnum & Mason, McBride. **Finals:** Anglo Pacific Resources, Avonside Group, Schroder Split Fund, Wilson Connolly. **Economic statistics:** CBI monthly industrial trends.

COMPANIES  PHILIP PANGALOS

Guinness suffers from charges

GUINNESS: Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, will serve up mixed results when the brewing to spirits group unveils full-year figures on Thursday. The group issued a trading update in January, when it surprised the market with a further £39 million of second-half restructuring costs. The City was disappointed over Guinness's new cost cutting at Cruzcampo, the group's Spanish brewing offshoot, which will account for £29 million of the additional charge.

Guinness's spirits operations are expected to dip by an underlying 2 per cent, with the group thought to have set aside £30 million of restructuring for continental Europe and Japan.

SCB Warburg has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £876 million (£915 million), after one-off costs of £64 million. After provisions, which include costs associated with the reorganisation at United Distillers and writedowns at Cruzcampo, analysts expect profits of £860-£885 million. A dividend of 14.9p (13.8p) is predicted.

Analysts will be hoping for further news on current trading and on possible spirit price increases. United Distillers, the group's international spirits division, accounts for about two-thirds of profits. In January, Guinness said that while trading in Asia, Latin America and Australia was strong, profits in Japan deteriorated in the final quarter and would be £10 million below previous expectations.

The board said Guinness brewing worldwide traded well in 1995 with growing volume and higher underlying profitability. Analysts await news on trading as well as the possibility of a share buyback or special dividend.



Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, feels the hot breath of cost-cutting at Cruzcampo

PEARSON: The fast-growing media group, whose empire spans Thames Television and *The Financial Times* to Madame Tussauds and Penguin books, kicks of another busy week with 1995 figures today that the market already expects to disappoint. Annual profits will be boosted by a windfall from the sale of Pearson's 9.8 per cent stake in *BSkyB*, the satellite broadcaster. However, NatWest Securities expects full-year profits to show a modest fall under normal accounting procedures to £235.7 million (£251.6 million), largely because of £32 million of reconstruction costs. A dividend of 16.5p (15p) is predicted. Forecasts are £228-£260 million.

Pearson gave warning last December that its results would be a disappointment. The company said reorganisation costs would climb to around £45 million (£12 million), with the bulk coming from changes at the *Financial Times* and the Westminster Press group of local papers. Pearson has suffered from weak markets in UK books and professional and educational publishing. Profits growth at the Tussauds Group is thought to have been restricted by weak domestic leisure spending, while price wars in the UK book market will hit profits at Penguin. Attention will focus on current trading and prospects, as well as possible disposals and recently bought businesses.

ARGOS: The catalogue retailing group should turn in a solid profits performance today, but attention will focus on what the company has to say about its cash pile, estimated at more than £200 million.

Rowan Morgan, at Nikko Europe, expects healthy like-for-like sales growth to drive final pre-tax profits to £122 million (£100.2 million), with a dividend of 12.6p (10.5p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £120 million to £125 million. Analysts are hoping that Argos uses its cash for acquisitions, where there has been recent speculation surrounding Signet, or for a share buyback or special dividend.

REXAM: Tomorrow's full-year figures from the packaging group will not make happy reading as Rexam has already issued two profits warnings in the past nine months. Kleinwort Benson expects final pre-tax profits to fall to £185 million (£226 million). Market forecasts range from £180 million to £190 million.

GLYNWED: Today's results from the diversified engineer should confirm steady recovery. UBS is looking for final pre-tax profits of £89 million (£67.1 million) and a dividend of 13p (12.3p). Market forecasts range from £81 million to £89 million. A weak housing market may hold back consumer products, but efficiency gains should provide future benefits.

LUCAS INDUSTRIES: The engineering to aerospace giant is expected to unveil a sharp rise in first-half profits tomorrow, but attention will focus on who will take the helm at Lucas after George Simpson said last week that he does not intend to renew his contract when it expires next March.

This comes after intense speculation that Mr Simpson is the leading candidate to succeed Lord Weinstock at GEC. Interim pre-tax profits are forecast to rise to £63 million (£44.5 million), according to UBS, with a dividend of 2.2p (2.1p) predicted.

FROST GROUP: The petrol station retailer, which with 1,200 sites is Britain's fifth biggest retailer after Texaco, has suffered from the petrol price war being waged by the big oil companies and the supermarket groups. Analysts expect Frost, which trades under the Save Service Stations brand, to report final pre-tax profits, due on Thursday, of between £10 million and £11 million (£10.9 million).

BEAZER HOMES: Wednesday's figures will provide the latest snapshot of the housing market. NatWest Securities expects interim pre-tax profits of £24.5 million (£18.5 million). Forecasts range frome £17.5 million to £24.5 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Inflation is tipped to fall

The recent trend in the UK economy towards modest growth combined with low inflation should be borne out by a clutch of economic data this week. The highlight will be the February inflation figures on Thursday, with MMS International predicting a fall in the headline figure from 2.9 per cent to 2.7 per cent. RPIX, the Government's preferred measure, which excludes mortgage interest payments, is also expected to fall from 2.8 per cent to 2.7 per cent.

On Wednesday, the February retail sales figures should show a 0.3 per cent monthly improvement, after bad weather caused a 0.6 per cent fall in January. But the year-on-year figures are still predicted to fall from 2.3 per cent to 1.6 per cent. Inflation hawks will examine closely the M4 money supply statistics, also due on Wednesday, for signs of whether inflation is set to rise later in the year. MMS predicts growth in M4 will slow from 1.4 per cent to 0.7 per cent, while the year-on-year rate will fall back slightly from 10.7 per cent to 10.5 per cent but remain above the Government's 3-9 per cent monitoring range.

The US economy also seems to be following a similar modest growth-low inflation pattern and retail sales figures on Wednesday are expected to show sales bouncing back. MMS expects sales to grow by 0.8 per cent after last month's 0.3 per cent fall.

The main talking point on the Continent this week will be the German M3 figures, expected on Wednesday. Favourable data is likely to lead to a cut in German rates after the Bundesbank Council meets on March 28. The headline figure is expected to remain above target at between 7 and 9 per cent but growth seems to be slowing. Economists are predicting that the slow growth in M3, coupled with a fall in private lending and recent unemployment and inflation figures will be sufficient to persuade the Bundesbank to cut rates.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Pearson, Orange, Manganese Bronze, VCI. **Avoid** Greenalls. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Kwik-Fit Holdings, Roxboro, Triad Group, Peek. **Avoid** Eurocamp. *The Observer*: **Buy** Amey. **Avoid** Prudential. *Independent on Sunday*: **Buy** WH Smith, Guinness, Flomerics, Cortecs. **Avoid** Signet. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** British Petroleum, Stadium, Saltire, Caldwell Investments.

Chancery Division — Law Report March 18 1996 — Queen's Bench Division

Acknowledging signature on will

Couser v Couser

Before Judge Colyer, QC

[Judgment February 27]

A witness attesting a will could effectively acknowledge his or her signature for the purposes of section 9 of the Wills Act 1837 by being present at one continuous transaction or attestation or even by a protestation that there was some other defect in the transaction or the execution of the will.

Judge Colyer, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, so held when dismissing an action by the plaintiff, John Couser, against the defendant, Amelia Alicna Couser, seeking a revocation of probate granted on September 2, 1993 in respect of the will of Samuel Couser who died on June 23, 1993.

Section 9 of the 1837 Act, as substituted by section 17 of the Administration of Justice Act 1982, provides: "No will shall be valid unless — (a) it is in writing, and signed by the testator ... and (c) the signature is made or acknowledged by the testator in the presence of two or more witnesses present at the same time; and (d) each witness either — (i) attests and signs the will; or (ii) acknowledges his signature, in the presence of the testator (but not necessarily in the presence of any other witness)."

Miss Barbara Rich for the plaintiff; Mr Thomas Putnam for the defendant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the testator had made a will through solicitors in 1981. Subsequently his wife died and he remarried. That will was thereby revoked.

The testator, who was in his seventies, decided to make a new will and wrote it out himself on February 2, 1993 by filling in the gaps on a printed will form.

He appointed his wife as his executrix and disposed of his estate by way of three legacies: £1,000 each to his son and his stepdaughter and £10,000 to Charing Cross Hospital kidney research unit. He left the residue to his wife.

The plaintiff, the testator's son, sought to impugn the will and set out to establish that it was not duly executed.

The possibilities which section 9 raised were various. A will could validly be signed by the testator in the absence of witnesses and then shown by him to the two witnesses and he could acknowledge his signature in the presence of both witnesses.

Curiously, it would be valid if both witnesses then left and returned severally to sign or acknowledge their signatures in the presence of the testator.

The section was clearly directed in the first place to creating the safeguard that there should be two witnesses and two witnesses must both at the same time see the testator either sign or acknowledge his signature.

There had to be a point in time therefore when all three were together but evidence of their joint activity could be made subsequently and separately. The section sought to avoid formalities and technicalities but nevertheless to preserve safeguards.

The will was attested by a Mr Bovingdon, a farmer, who gave evidence, and by his wife. Mr Bovingdon said that on February 4, 1993 he was feeding animals in the yard behind his bungalow when he saw the testator walking towards them talking to Mrs Bovingdon.

Mrs Bovingdon told him that the testator wanted them to sign his will and the testator confirmed that by tapping his pocket. Mrs Bovingdon and the testator went into the bungalow and some 10 minutes later Mr Bovingdon followed.

His wife and the testator were sitting by the dining table and there was a brief discussion about the will. The Bovingdons were not well versed in the formalities of a will although they had made wills through the bank.

They advised the testator to use the services of a bank. Mrs Bovingdon said she had signed already but was still urging the testator to go to a bank and said she thought the will was not valid as it had not been signed by the testator in her presence. She was wrong in that since an acknowledgment would have been sufficient.

The will at that stage was in an envelope. The testator took it out, said it was his will, and exposed the lower half of the document showing his signature and Mrs Bovingdon's signature. Mr Bovingdon duly signed it, and the testator put it back in the envelope and into his pocket.

While Mr Bovingdon was signing his wife was approximately 10 feet away making coffee. After he signed she continued urging upon the testator that she did not think there had been due attestation.

His Lordship said that he was asked to determine that there was no good execution of the will because the evidence suggested that the order of events could best be described as execution by the testator, attestation by the first witness in absence of the second witness, followed by separate attestation by the second witness in the presence of the first witness.

His Lordship said he was not persuaded that anything here went wrong. The picture presented was of events a few moments apart. When Mr Bovingdon was signing his wife was present in the same room albeit a little distance away.

Could a witness who was 10 feet away duly acknowledge her signature either by saying nothing or by protesting that she thought that what she had done was not in accordance with statutory requirements?

There was no law on the acknowledgement by a witness of his signature. But it could not have been intended that different principles applied to the acknowledgement of a testator's signature and of a witness's signature.

Mr Bovingdon clearly attested and signed in the testator's presence. Mrs Bovingdon had already done so. By her very telling of the testator to go to the bank she continued to acknowledge her signature.

At the end of the transaction both Mr and Mrs Bovingdon were able to say with truth: "I know that Sam Couser has signed this document."

Solicitors: Harris & Cartwright, Slough; Owen White & Catlin, Ashford, Middlesex.

Legal aid decision challengeable

Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Donn & Co (a Firm)

Before Mr Justice Ognall

[Judgment February 9]

The decision-making process of a legal aid committee in awarding a contract to solicitors for the conduct of multi-party action was justiciable in public law.

Mr Justice Ognall so stated in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an application for judicial review by Donn & Co against the decision by the multi-party operational committee of the Legal Aid Board on July 25, 1995 whereby it awarded the contract for the management of the generic work in respect of the Gulf War Syndrome cases to the firms of Dawbarns and Geoffrey Stevens & Co. The contract was declared ineffectual from the date of the judgment and the matter remitted to a differently constituted committee for reconsideration.

Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Peter Village for the firm; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Miss Jane Oldham for the Board.

MR JUSTICE OGNALL had invited argument on whether irrespective of any true connection with statute, policy or practice, the board's decision-making process involved some sufficient public law element.

It was common ground that the answer to the question of sufficient public law element admitted of no universal test: see useful guidance in *R v Derbyshire County Council, Ex parte Noble* ([1990] ICR 819H).

Mr Beloff relied on the broad tenor of *R v Lord Chancellor, Ex parte Hibbit and Saunders* (*The Times* March 12, 1993) and submitted that because the performance of the contract by the solicitor had public importance, that could not *per se* make the matter justiciable in public law.

Mr Moses submitted that the decision-making plainly contained a public law element for the following reasons: it related directly to the conduct of litigation to be undertaken on behalf of hundreds of legally assisted and privately paying plaintiffs; it was clearly in the public interest that the best firm be selected by fair and lawful procedure: the arrangements enabled the board to select the firm or groups of firms which would do the work best and they contained numerous provisions which gave the decision a public law element.

His Lordship was invited to focus on the public importance of the selection process. One was not in the present case to be concerned with ordinary private law questions arising from contractual relations between employer and employee: rather the procedures chosen by the committee in the context of selection of solicitors to discharge a task which was of great public importance.

Mr Moses adopted as one test the question whether the selection process was truly akin to a commercial function or whether it was more properly analogous to a governmental one.

Mr Moses submitted the latter was appropriate. There was a vital public interest in the procedurally regular and fair conduct of the selection process, which at common law, brought that process within the aegis of public law.

His Lordship had not found the question easy. To a degree the exhortation to look at the subject matter itself raised a question not free from difficulty. His Lordship found it difficult to accept the invitation to put from his mind the object of the selection process, namely the conduct of the litigation, and to focus solely upon the selection process itself.

Indeed it was a central part of Mr Moses's argument that the court should consider the public importance of the task to be performed by the preferred tenderer. His Lordship preferred to treat both the nature and purpose of the selection process and its consequences as one indivisible whole.

The answer fell to be decided as one of overall impression and one of degree. There could be no universal test. But bearing in mind all the factors his Lordship preferred Mr Moses's submissions.

Even if there were to be arguably some private law remedy, or whether there was none, his Lordship was satisfied that quite independently, the public dimensions of the matter were of a quality which made it justiciable in public law.

Solicitors: Donn & Co, Manchester; Mr Richard Green.

Recovering cost of providing care

Avon County Council v Hooper and Another

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Hobhouse

[Judgment February 22]

A local authority could, under section 17 of the Health and Social Services Adjudication Act 1983, recover the cost of providing care for a handicapped person even when it had not charged at the time the care was provided so long as it had acted reasonably and the person had sufficient means.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal, formally brought by Mrs Hooper as administratrix of the estate of her son, against a decision of Judge Taylor, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, that Avon County Council was entitled to recover the costs of his care following serious brain damage at birth, following the settlement of his action for negligence against the second defendant, the Bristol and District Health Authority.

The health authority had agreed to indemnify the estate and the action was in effect a dispute between the health authority and the local authority.

Section 17 of the Act provides: "(1) Subject to section (3) below, an authority providing a service ... may recover such charge (if any) for it as they consider reasonable...

"(3) If a person — (b) satisfies the authority providing the service that his means are insufficient for it to be reasonably practicable for him to pay for the service ... the authority shall not require him to pay more for it than it appears to them that it is reasonably practicable for him to pay."

Mr Piers Ashworth, QC and Mr Michael Roach for the local authority; Mr John Grace, QC and Mr John Beggs for the second defendants.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that section 17 was an empowering section. It gave the local authority the power but not the obligation to charge for the provision of the relevant services. It was implicit both in the language of the section and in the general law governing the activities of local authorities that the power had to be exercised reasonably.

If the local authority was acting reasonably there was no basis in section 17(1) for the person availing himself of the service to say that the local authority should not recover. He had in those circumstances to satisfy the authority under section 17(3) that his means were insufficient for it to be reasonably practicable for him to pay the amount which he would otherwise be obliged to pay.

Whether it was reasonable to charge had to be considered at an appropriate time which would not necessarily be before the time the services were rendered and would most probably be later when the local authority had put itself in possession of the relevant information. Similarly, the question of means and the practicability of paying would often have to be the subject of late inquiry and consideration. Once it was recognised that the local authority had to act reasonably, the section could be seen to have a sensible and practical scheme.

Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss agreed.

Solicitors: Mr John E. Orton, Bristol; Osborne Clarke.

Unnecessary costs in transcripts

Regina v James

A scatter-gun approach in running criminal appeals was to be deprecated.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, [Lord Justice Simon Brown, Mr Justice Alliott and Mr Justice Ognall] so stated on March 8, giving reasons for having dismissed on February 29 the appeal of Colin Richard James against his murder conviction at Reading Crown Court on May 23, 1994.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that their Lordships regretted in particular the considerable expenditure of public funds involved in transcribing the evidence of five witnesses, one hundred pages in all, none of which had proved to be of any help.

Employer's covenant was unreasonable

D v M

Before Mr Justice Laws

[Judgment November 5]

A covenant which purported to confer on an employer rights to restrict his employer's conduct after termination of the contract even where the contract was unlawfully terminated by the employer was necessarily unreasonable.

Mr Justice Laws so held in the Queen's Bench Division when, inter alia, refusing to grant an interlocutory injunction to the plaintiffs to enforce restraining provisions in a contract of service against the defendant. The case was heard in chambers and the judgment was released for publication by the judge on January 23.

Miss Jane McNeill for the plaintiff; Mr Selwyn Bloch for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that the terms of the provision on which the plaintiff relied applied in the plaintiffs' favour if the agreement was terminated for any reason whatsoever.

Two issues arose:

1 Were the provisions relied on by the plaintiffs on their face unreasonable as entitling them to rely on their terms even where they were themselves in repudiatory breach of the contract?

2 If so, could the offending words "for any reason whatsoever" be severed?

Although neither *Living Design (Home Improvements) Ltd v Davidson* ([1994] IRLR 69), a decision of the Court of Session, nor the obiter observations of Mr Justice Scott in *Briggs v Oates* ([1990] ICR 473) were binding on his Lordship, the principle enunciated in those decisions was clearly right.

A restrictive covenant, having effect after the termination of a contract of service or for services, which on its face applied to the employer's benefit even where the termination had been induced by his own breach was necessarily unreasonable.

Such a provision, if given effect, would constitute an evasion of the rule in *General Bill Posting Co Ltd v Atkinson* ([1909] AC 115). Indeed the only purpose of inserting the material words would be to secure coercive rights to the employer which would survive his own contractual misconduct. That would not be reasonable.

The words which would entitle the plaintiffs to rely on the restraining covenants even in the event of their own repudiatory breach could not be regarded as separate and distinct from the substance of those restraints, plainly they were not themselves covenants at all: they qualified the covenants by extending the circumstances in which the latter might be relied upon.

Neither were the words of trivial importance or merely technical. They were a highly significant element in the contractual provision being made and were not, therefore, severable.

Solicitors: Vizards; Pritchard Englefield.

Tribunal unable to review conviction

In re a Solicitor

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Latham and Mr Justice Hooper

[Judgment February 27]

Public policy required that, save in exceptional circumstances, a challenge to a criminal conviction should not be entertained by a disciplinary tribunal. The tribunal was right in refusing an adjournment to hear evidence to show wrongful conviction.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by a solicitor against the findings and order of the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal in August 1995 that he be struck off the roll for conduct unbefitting a solicitor.

The appellant in person: Mr Timothy Dutton for the Law Society.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the reserved judgment of the court, rejected the appellant's contention that, by virtue of section 11 of the Civil Evidence Act 1968 and rules 16 and 30 of the Solicitors (Disciplinary Proceedings) Rules (SI 1994 No 288) he was entitled as of right to call evidence to prove that he was not guilty of the 15 offences of dishonesty involving fraud upon the legal aid fund of which he was convicted at Manchester Crown Court in November 1993 and for which he had received a prison sentence of three years.

The appellant had not sought to appeal against the conviction but had preferred to attempt to establish before the tribunal, on a civil burden of proof, that he had been wrongly convicted.

Hunter v Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police ([1982] AC 529) was the leading case on whether and in what circumstances a criminal conviction could be challenged in civil proceedings.

In that case Lord Diplock had concluded (at p545) that only "fresh evidence obtained since the criminal trial and the probative weight of such evidence justify making an exception to the general rule of public policy that the use of civil actions to initiate collateral attacks ... should be treated as an abuse of the process of the court."

In *Smith v Linskill* (*The Times* February 7) the three public policy considerations underlying the rule against collateral challenge were clearly set out and Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, emphasised that the preferred approach must be to ensure that the conviction itself should be reviewed, rather than to seek to establish injustice by civil action.

Although *Hunter* and *Smith* were civil actions in which the plaintiffs made the collateral challenge and in the present case the tribunal proceedings were brought against the appellant by the Law Society, the same principles applied.

Here there were no exceptional circumstances nor any fresh evidence, thus the tribunal was right to refuse to hear evidence of wrongful conviction.

Solicitors: Cartwrights Adams & Black, Cardiff.

Create a stakeholder society by giving voters free shares

Adrian Pepper advocates radical measures to broaden ownership and improve the delivery of public services

How often we hear commentators discussing whether the economic "feel-good' factor will arrive in time to rescue the Conservatives at the next general election. There was no "feel-good" factor in 1992 and the Conservatives still managed to hold on. But consensus has it that, this time round, the "feel-good" factor will be a necessity for this Government to survive.

No matter how much more disposable income people find in their pockets between now and the next election, financial insecurity will persist until they feel they have some wealth to fall back on. Houses may act as a store of wealth, but they cannot create it. To create wealth, people need share capital.

During the 1980s, the number of direct shareholders more than trebled to top ten million — mainly through privatisation issues. Through owning shares, more people have become genuine stakeholders in the economy for the first time. Anyone with a private pension looks to the performance of stock markets to indicate their future wealth. Armies of small shareholders can today be seen making an impact on directors at annual meetings.

While the 1990s have seen no diminution in people's enthusiasm for share ownership, politicians appear to have stopped paying it much attention. But, given the proven electoral appeal of wider share ownership, it is surely only a matter of time before the politicians start seeking out new policies. There are many ideas out there to be adopted.

There are practical ways in which the Government can promote share ownership. The privatisation programme could be extended to many new areas of the public sector. Its popularity could be restored by making shares in privatised companies more widely available. Everyone could be given a stake in future privatisations if shares were given away to the public rather than sold.

Shares in industries such as Forest Enterprise, the British Waterways Board, the Tote, London Underground and the Post Office could be distributed to investment companies who would hold and manage funds on behalf of individuals. Many more government functions could be hived off to the private sector. For example, where an in-house bidder wins the right to provide a government service after a market test, management and employees should be able to negotiate to buy out provision of the service. Where a government service is contracted out to a private organisation, contractors should agree to make provision for employees to become shareholders in the organisations for which they work. The same should apply to projects procured under the private finance initiative.

Such an approach would produce endless opportunities for the Government to spread share ownership. If members of the Sea Mammal Research Unit or the Red Deer Commission (both currently part of the public sector) had the opportunity to own shares in their privatised business, then employees in the Prison Service or Employment Service may wish to follow suit. Instead of being open to the accusation of public sector sloth and bureaucracy, employee-owned agencies providing services to the Government would have clear incentives to deliver them as efficiently as possible.

For the time being, the momentum seems to have been lost from the drive to promote wider share ownership. As elections approach, governments and oppositions become more cautious for the sake of short-term political expediency.

The creation of new shareholders from the conversions of building societies into banks is the only radical move on the horizon. But politicians with bold vision could find long-term advantage in launching initiatives to widen share ownership. The prospect of more people sharing in the nation's wealth may just help to recreate that elusive "feel-good" factor.

Adrian Pepper is consultant to Pro-Share, which is dedicated to widening share ownership. His pamphlet *All Capitalists Now* is available from ProShare at 13-14 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5BQ. Price £4.99.

Abbey determined not to burn its fingers over N&P issue

The bank is still smarting from the problems that hit its flotation says **Sara McConnell**



No mistakes this time: Alistair Lyons, N&P chief executive, with Lord Shuttleworth, N&P chairman, and Lord Tugendhat

Mention the words "burning skip" to senior Abbey National executives and they pale visibly as the nightmare returns. Nearly seven years after Abbey's conversion to a bank, the abiding public image of what should have been a triumph for popular capitalism is a smouldering skip in a rubbish strewn side road in southeast London, filled with half-burnt Abbey National share certificates. An estimated 100,000 certificates worth millions of pounds went up in smoke in circumstances never fully explained.

If this was not enough, Abbey's pioneering flotation was also dogged by computer problems. Addresses were garbled by a computer that could only read the first five lines. Investors received too few shares or too many. In some cases, mistakes are still coming to light when customers try to sell shares. Abbey has demanded the return of shares from customers who turn out to have been allocated too many because of confusion over names at the time of the flotation.

After a public relations disaster of this magnitude, it takes some *chutzpah* to propose another distribution of free shares. But this is exactly what Abbey National, chaired by Lord Tugendhat, is doing. Next month, if all goes according to plan, members of the National & Provincial building society will vote to be taken over by Abbey. In August this year, N&P's 1.4 million qualifying members should receive allocations of at least £500 of free Abbey shares in return for agreeing to be taken over. Qualifying investors and borrowers who had at least £100 in an N&P share account or mortgage on April 28, 1995, and December 31, 1995 will get £500 of Abbey shares. Members of more than two years' standing will get a payout of up to £4,250 which they can take in cash or Abbey shares.

If all savers opt for shares rather than cash, Abbey will be faced with taking 1.4 million additional shareholders on to its register. Even if all the savers with a choice opt for cash, Abbey will still have an estimated 600,000 additional shareholders.

Each shareholder will mean another set of records and another issue of certificates, both areas fraught with difficulty in the original flotation.

But this time Abbey is determined to leave no room for error. It will be issuing its own share certificates, acting as its own registrar, and managing its own administration. There will be no repeat of the use, forced on it by a tight timetable, of a third-party registrar.

Perhaps unfortunately for Abbey's public image, few people now remember that Lloyds Bank Registrars, rather than Abbey itself, was responsible for the issuing and administration of Abbey shares in 1989.

Lloyds ended up having to pay compensation to aggrieved Abbey shareholders. Phil Hallatt, now Abbey's director of shareholder services, and deputy company secretary in 1989, said Abbey was unable to start its own registrar then. "We took a view on the registrars open to us [in 1989]," he said, adding: "The scale of the operation was not sufficient to handle the numbers of share certificates and vetting procedures could have been better. The whole of the registration world has improved because of Abbey's problems."

In 1994, the Abbey finally decided no share administration system on the market suited its requirements. So it built its own. So far it has spent more than £2 million on computer equipment alone.

The result is a sophisticated electronic record keeping system, which allocates each investor an individual number. Every piece of correspondence is scanned in to the bank's mainframe computer and is accessible at the touch of a button when shareholders ring up with queries.

Some grim reminders of previous administrative chaos remain. Pre-February 1994 shareholder correspondence remains piled high in a warehouse "somewhere in the Midlands". The documents are not comprehensively indexed, so retrieving any of the 23 million pieces of paper stored there makes looking for a needle in a haystack seem easy. But Abbey has no plans to transfer the paper to its electronic system, believing the cost would outweigh the benefits.

Instead, it is preparing itself for the onslaught of up to 1.4 million new shareholders from N&P. Mr Hallatt is confident the bank will be able to cope. "The scale is much smaller — we had 5.5 million shareholders in the original flotation. We will only use three mailing houses, all used before. We are designing clear forms in conjunction with the N&P." The N&P will also have done most of the legwork in "deduplicating" its membership list, making sure people are not listed twice because they have slightly different names or addresses on different accounts.

Many of Abbey's original problems were caused by failures of deduplication. The then building society had 10 million account holders but no customer database. A lot is at stake this summer, not least Abbey's plan to contract itself out as a third party registrar and its review of possibilities for in-house share dealing in the autumn. If anything goes wrong with the N&P takeover, its customers and potential business partners will not give it another chance.

British given lift at ski resort

Investment snowballs on Méribel slopes

BY RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH investors in Méribel have seen the value of their stake in the favourite Alpine playground of the rich rise by 30 per cent since last November.

About 5 per cent of Méribel Altina, the company which controls the slopes and ski lifts, is owned by British shareholders. They include Sir Edward Tomkins, former British ambassador to Paris; Colonel Tom Hall, formerly of the Royal Hussars and a veteran of their Malayan and Aden emergencies; and David Lindsay, son of Colonel Peter Lindsay, who built the first ski lift in 1938.

Shares in Méribel Altina have risen since the flotation of the company on the Paris Stock Exchange last year. The relatively obscure company had previously been undervalued, according to André Surelle, chairman of the company.

The British shareholding in the company is now worth about £1.2 million, and the company is among the 50 most successful in France. Sir Edward, Colonel Hall, and Mr Lindsay are all directors.

Shareholders emphasised yesterday that the profits were paper profits and that none of the British had cashed in their stake. They said that the success of the company was important because it helped ensure the resort's continuing links with its history of independence. Last November, there was an abortive attempt by the local departmental government of Savoie to become the biggest shareholder in the company.



Alpine playground on the up

Sir Edward said: "Of course it is good news for investors in Méribel. But it is also good news for Méribel itself that the ski lift company remains independent. Other resorts are run by the Savoie department."

He added that the resort was originally founded by the British before the last war, saying: "The French victories in the Winter Olympics of 1936 stimulated a vogue for skiing in France, focusing attention on the possibility of developing new ski resorts."

The resort's historic links with Britain continue today. A third of its 33,000 visitors each week are British, and 42 British tour operators have holiday homes in the village, where a chalet can fetch up to £2 million.

Visitors include Samantha Fox, the former model; Kim Wilde, the pop singer; James Hewitt, the former Life Guard and friend of the Princess of Wales; and the Duchess of York.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Healthcare property firm makes debut

PRIMARY HEALTH PROPERTIES (PHP), which will invest in healthcare properties, plans to list on the Alternative Investment Market for small and growing companies on Wednesday. PHP is expected to raise £20 million, capitalising it at about £20 million. Collins Stewart & Co is nominated adviser and broker to the issue.

Capital and Western Estates, which joined AIM earlier this month, is today expected to announce it has acquired a portfolio of eight residential properties in Greater London for £1.24 million.

Last week's prestigious 1995 Coopers & Lybrand PLC Awards, organised in association with *The Times*, celebrated their tenth year with a new award for best new entrant to AIM. It was won by Surrey Free Inns, the public house operator. AIM should receive a further boost from Johnson Fry's new AIM Distribution Trust, a venture capital trust that will invest £20 million over three years.

The number of companies traded on AIM stands at 130, compared with just ten listed when the market started on June 19. Capitalisation amounts to £2.59 billion, while £183.4 million has been raised since the market began.

PHILIP PANGALOS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
15.80	AMCO Corp	111	...	5.1	12.2
2.09	Abacus Recruit	38	...	...	...
19.20	A de Gruchy	130	...	5.4	10.8
12.90	African Gold	12½	...	..	...
5.01	Albemarale & Bd	13½	...	...	...
9.97	Alpha Omnicron	19	...	...	...
37.80	Ann St Brewery	395	− 5	5.5	11.9
5.30	Ann St Cv Pf	895	...	8.9	...
71.80	Antonov	101	− 5	...	...
2.13	Arlon Props	9	+ 1	...	...
11.40	Ask Central	71	...	...	...
1.10	Athelney Trust	61	...	...	...
6.28	Ballymalray	6	+ ½	...	...
4.88	Barrs Hldgs	19	− 1	...	...
3.85	Belcanto	43	...	...	...
1.01	Bowness Leis	147	+ 2	3.8	...
	Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	...
5.72	Broncote Hldgs	57	+ 1	...	...
36.90	Brocktank	313	+ 3	2.5	31.3
0.94	CCI Hldgs	118	...	...	...
0.13	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...
3.29	Cafe Inns	115	...	2.2	9.5
7.39	Caledonian Tst	65	+ 10	..	7.9
1.55	Capital & Wstn	2	...	...	...
17.50	Card Clear	78	+ 3	...	...
3.39	Cassidy Bros	62	...	6.0	8.8
1.79	Cavendish W F	41	...	...	20.8
5.28	Celebrated Group	18	...	...	...
24.00	Celtic	9250	−200	..	.
	Celtic Pf Shs	9250	−200	...	...
19.00	CI Comms(TV)	119	...	2.5	15.3
7.47	Chartwell Intl	70	− 1	...	...
0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	...
12.70	ClubPartners	30	− 1	...	...
12.20	Cont de Pri Fin	510	...	...	...
7.99	Conister Tst	40	− 4	5.2	...
14.00	Country Gdns	76	+ 3	2.0	15.7
2.58	Cntry Gdns Pf	73	...	9.1	...
35.60	Creoc Intl	99	...	...	...
14.60	Crown Products	55	− 5	..	...
13.90	DBS Management	205	+ 35	3.7	8.3
	Dalkeith Inns	34	...	...	...
3.58	David Glass	66	...	5.5	9.4
56.00	Dawson Hldgs	1225	+ 10	3.1	32.9
3.79	Dean Corp	13	...	.	76.0
11.80	Dmatek	63	...	...	...
76.30	Electrophoretics Intl	118	− 2	...	...
5.62	Euro Sales Fn	125	...	...	...
	Fairlake	345	+ 10	...	...
5.54	First Public	235	− 25	...	...
21.70	Fivecrest	130	+ 10	...	56.5
5.25	Flomerics	205	...	1.6	...
7.16	Floral St	308	...	0.4	14.0
17.40	Formscan	165	− 3	1.5	21.5
55.00	Freepages	15	+ ½	...	...
5.25	Furlong Homes	105	+ 9	3.0	...
26.70	Gander Hldgs	9¼	+ ¼	...	...
5.70	Greenhills	19	− 1	...	...
32.40	Guilton	145	...	3.4	13.1
2.85	Hanson	28	− 7	...	...
55.80	Hiscox Dstl Ins	123	...	0.3	...
10.70	Indpt Radio	107	...	...	...
14.20	Inner Workings	85	...	...	...
21.50	Intl Greetings	513	...	1.2	...
34.50	IOC Intl	141	+ 11	...	...
3.87	Jasmin	95	...	...	14.3
22.10	Jennings Bros	300	...	2.6	21.5
40.10	KS Biomedix	106	− 7	...	...
25.30	Lancashire Enterprises	140	+ 2	3.6	11.1
14.80	Lawrence	243	...	0.8	...
53.70	Lawrie Group	2750	...	3.2	14.0

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
43.10	Le Riches Strs	260	.	7.4	25.5
	Lifehome As Ten	95	...	.	..
26.60	Lon Fiduciary	2⅞	...	.	...
1.38	London Town	55	...	.	..
12.30	Lorien Grp	215	− 5	2.2	.
11.80	Manx & O'seas	20	.	2.0	27.1
43.50	Megalomedia	101	− 6	.	..
	Megalomedia Wts	91	− 6	.	...
5.57	Mellek	88	...	...	39.3
77.00	Memory Corp	130	− 25	.	.
6.33	Metrodome Films	22	+ 1	.	.
15.20	Moorepay	200	− 20	2.8	.
9.08	Mountcashel	0¼	...	.	...
20.50	MultiMedia	71	− 1	.	...
25.10	NWF Grp	335	.	2.4	16.2
	Nash (Wm)	210	...	3.9	.
8.73	Neill Clerk	345	.	2.2	16.7
5.63	Neilson Cobbold	205	.	2.3	.
	Norcity II	73	...	.	..
	Northomes	73	...	.	..
7.79	Nthn Petlm	68	...	.	..
0.13	Nthn Petlm Wts	8	...	.	..
	Nthmb Res Prps	63	...	.	..
17.90	Nursing Home	116	.	1.3	33.4
13.00	Old English Pub	106	+ 8	1.2	.
5.49	Omnacare	89	+ 4	0.7	..
10.00	Omnimedia	56	− 2	.	..
15.80	Optical Care	68	− 2	.	..
18.70	Pacific Media	1¾	...	.	..
	Pacific Med Pf	54	...	.	..
23.90	Pan Andean Res	58	+ 7	.	..
4.31	Park Ests(Lnv)	180	...	.	..
95.90	Pet City	395	...	.	..
29.40	Polymasc Pharms	147	− 2	.	..
3.71	Preston Nth E	410	+ 10	.	..
1.07	Revelation Piccadilly	100	− 5	...	..
10.60	Riceman Insce	16	.	.	..
3.50	Ruchmere Wynne	4	...	.	..
0.14	Rush Wyn Wts	1½	...	.	..
5.15	SCS Satellite	50	− 11	.	..
1.95	Scotswood Inds	28	...	4.5	...
	Scott Pride	40	− 3	.	..
15.40	Scrutions	320	.	5.1	13.0
2.10	Self Sealing	36	− 14	.	..
	Silkbarn	3	...	.	..
59.90	SkyePharma	9	...	.	..
0.97	SkyePharma B Wts	8	− ½	.	..
136.10	Southern News	577	+ 8½	3.5	15.2
	Southern Vectis	55	− 3	.	..
88.20	Stanford Rook	480	+ 50	.	..
16.90	Surrey Fr Inns	168	− 2	1.5	19.8
36.30	TRACKER Netwk	685	− 20	.	..
4.85	Tele Cred Eur	48	− 2	.	..
	Tele Cred Wts	35	...	.	..
17.00	Tead	101	− 2	.	..
	Trinity Care	175	...	1.1	..
	Trinity Care Pf	170	...	.	..
206.90	Trocadero	49	− 2	.	..
	Univent	40	...	.	..
7.71	Utd Auctions	433	...	1.2	...
13.30	VDC	795	+ 10	3.0	14.0
35.70	Versailles Grp	13⅞	...	.	22.0
8.85	Viewlon	295	− 5	...	..
	Voss	260	− 10	.	..
	Wedderburn Secs	10	...	.	..
	Wedd Secs Wrnts	4	...	.	..
5.80	Western Selectn	16	...	.	63.6
2.63	Westmount Engy	28	...	...	..
6.42	W'chester M Mkt	58	− 2	.	..
	Wynnstay Props	140	...	.	..
25.80	Zergo	280	...	.	..

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
WE, MOHAMMAD SATTAR and MOHAMMAD RIAZ both now residing at 116 Furlong Road, London NW6 2BL, having during the past six months been carried on the trade or calling of Shopkeeper, and being persons interested in the premises described below do hereby give notice that it is our intention to apply at the Transfer Sessions for the said Division to be held at 185 Marylebone Road, London NW1 on the 2nd day of April 1996 for the provisional grant to us of a Justices' licence authorising us to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption ON the premises about to be altered or extended for the purpose of being used as a house for the sale of intoxicating liquor situated at 49 Brecknock Road, London N.7. and to be known by the sign of SUN STAR SUPER MARKET, of which premises Stephen John Kass and Linda Claris Kass are the owners.
Dated this 6th day of March 1996.
Hookers of 11 Station Road, Harlesden, London NW10 4UD. Solicitors and Agents for the Applicants.

LEGAL NOTICES

Dolphin Insurance Co Ltd
In Liquidation
In Compulsory Liquidation
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company, which is being compulsorily wound-up, are required, on or before 19 April 1996, to send in their full names and addresses with particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, Mr G A Auger FCCA, Messrs BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA, the Joint Liquidator of the company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidator, either personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims, at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated this 11 day of March 1996.
G A Auger, Joint Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

Driveline Services Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 28th March 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for by Section 98 of the Act.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 8th March 1996.
Gerry Pearce, Director.

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
Rule 4.106(1)
Boom's Property Letting and Management Limited
In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ian Frances of Ian Frances Association, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on the 12th March 1996.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Ian Frances at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP.
I Frances, Liquidator.

POLLY PECK INTERNATIONAL FINANCE LIMITED
(IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
(A COMPANY INCORPORATED IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS)
The High Court of Justice in England and Wales has given judgment to enable the holders of the Swiss Franc Bearer Bonds (SEC. NR. 705.401/704.400/705.674/705.488/705.566/704.779) and Deutsche Mark Bearer Bonds (SEC. NR. 485.737), (all issued by Polly Peck International Finance Limited) as well as Polly Peck International Finance Limited, to receive a dividend on their claims in relation to the Bonds in Polly Peck International Plc's Scheme of Arrangement ("PPI Scheme").
The Joint Liquidators intend to pay a dividend to Bondholders and any other persons in Polly Peck International Finance Limited following receipt of funds from the PPI Scheme.
Creditors of Polly Peck International Finance Limited, other than the holders of the Swiss Franc Bearer Bonds and Deutsche Mark Bearer Bonds (if any) should submit details of their claims (together with all necessary supporting documentation) as soon as possible to:
P J Beirne
KPMG
20 Farringdon Street
London EC4A 4PP
Fax: 0171 311 3311
THOSE CREDITORS (OTHER THAN THE HOLDERS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED SWISS FRANC BEARER BONDS AND THE DEUTSCHE MARK BEARER BONDS) WHO DO NOT SUBMIT THEIR CLAIMS BY 5 APRIL 1996 WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FIRST DIVIDEND OF POLLY PECK INTERNATIONAL FINANCE LIMITED AND SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO DISTURB THAT DIVIDEND BY REASON OF THEIR NON PARTICIPATION IN IT (OR ANY OTHER DIVIDEND DECLARED BEFORE THEIR DEBT IS PROVED).
The Joint Liquidators understand that a second dividend out of the PPI Scheme is to be paid in early April 1996. In this event, the Joint Liquidators will endeavour to arrange for the first dividend payment to the Bondholders of Polly Peck International Finance Limited to be paid at the same time as the second dividend payment out of the PPI Scheme.
Information required by Bondholders or other creditors regarding any aspect of the liquidation of Polly Peck International Finance Limited (including with respect to the calculation of the first dividend) can be obtained from P.J. Beirne at the address mentioned above.
NOTICE TO BONDHOLDERS
Holders of the aforementioned Swiss Franc Bearer Bonds and the Deutsche Mark Bearer Bonds who still physically hold their bonds are asked to contact immediately S G Warburg & Co. SA, care of S G Warburg Securities SA, Case Postale 2023, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland for the Swiss Franc Bond Issue and Arab Banking Corporation Dienstleistungs GmbH, Mainzer Landstrasse 13-15, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany for the Deutsche Mark Bond Issue.
Separate notice to the holders of the aforementioned Swiss Franc Bearer Bonds and Deutsche Mark Bearer Bonds will be published in the Neue Zuricher Zeitung, Basler Zeitung, Journal De Geneve, Feuille Officielle Suisse and respectively in Neue Zeitung and Bundesanzeiger in Germany regarding the timing and the amount of dividend payments once funds are made available for distribution.
P J Beirne, Joint Liquidator.

MARQUE GROUP PLC
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Peter S Dunn FCA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Leftwich Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FT, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the Creditors on 13th March 1996.
Dated 13th March 1996.
Peter S Dunn FCA, Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
STOCKHOLM FINANCE LTD
Company No: 1802493
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 12.30pm on Tuesday, 23rd of April 1996, at Bucher Phillips at 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Bucher Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, between 10.00am and 4.00 pm on Friday, 22nd March and on Monday, 1st of April 1996.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge a full statement of account and an informal proof of debt and unless attending in person a proxy in the form attached at Bucher Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF no later than 12.00 noon on Monday, 1st April 1996. Secured Creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting.
By Order of the Board.
Ulf Cederlof, Director.
Dated 13th of March 1996.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
BSS TRUCK HIRE LIMITED
Registered number: 2664920.
Former company name: B.S. Fuels Limited. Trading name: None. Nature of business: Vehicle Hire. Trade classification: 8941 Other Motor Services. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 6 March 1996. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: Stephen Robert Edward Hancock and Peter Norman Sprat (office holder nos: 6472 and 6278). Address: Price Waterhouse, 10 Bricket Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JX.

The Insolvency Rules 1986
Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
BSS CAR WASH LIMITED
Registered number: 2431620.
Former company name: None. Trading name: None. Nature of business: Dormant company. Trade classification: 8941 Other Motor Services. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 6 March 1996. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: Stephen Robert Edward Hancock and Peter Norman Sprat (office holder nos: 6472 and 6278). Address: Price Waterhouse, 10 Bricket Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JX.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
BSS VEHICLES LIMITED
Registered number: 1237854.
Former company name: None. Trading name: None. Nature of business: Motor Dealership. Trade classification: 8941 Other Motor Services. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 6 March 1996. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: Stephen Robert Edward Hancock and Peter Norman Sprat (office holder nos: 6472 and 6278). Address: Price Waterhouse 10 Bricket Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JX.

COMPANY NOTICES

QUEBEC CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY
Notice to Security Holders
The Annual General Meeting of the Security Holders of Quebec Central Railway Company will be held in The Conference Room, Room 158, Windsor Station, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on Wednesday, the 17th day of April, 1996, at the hour of 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon, for presentation of the financial statements, the election of two directors to represent the Security Holders of the Company, to hold the next Annual General Meeting of the Company; the appointment of the auditor of the Company; and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
D.J. Kezar
Secretary
MONTREAL, Quebec,
February 22, 1996

Foul-mouthed and highfalutin both at once

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

New police heroes are such a commonplace that even when Warren Clarke pops up doing an impression of Les Dawson, few of us will be dancing the can-can with excitement. But our new Saturday coppers **Dalziel and Pascoe** (BBC1) must be allowed to have their own interest. English detective fiction has an honourable tradition of bodies on carpets; and crimes solved by men of authority who quote Shakespeare above everybody's heads. Reginald Hill's popular novels are perfect examples of that genre.

When I say the word "genre", however, I do it self-consciously. Because when one of *Dalziel and Pascoe*'s characters said "genre" on Saturday, it jarred much more than any of the more offensive language ("shit-stirring"; "show us yer tits"; "piss off") that was supposedly importing Dalziel into the real world. If anything threatens to kill *Dalziel and Pascoe* stone dead with viewers, it's that whereas certain types of cleverness are encouraged on television — Robbie Coltrane's verbal bullying; David Suchet's poised cerebration — an acquaintance with long words is simply beyond the pale. Words such as "genre" and "symbiotic" are crimes against the people. Making Dalziel a loud-mouthed bollock-scratcher with a face like a bag of spanners is sensible, but having him refer to a rugby match as "this insubstantial pageant" has the distinct sound of a coffin nail hammered home.

I ought to say I did enjoy the plot on Saturday. It kept you guessing. Also I will watch Warren Clarke in anything, and campaign regularly for a repeat showing of a mid-1970s *Our Mutual Friend*, in which he played Bradley Headstone. But in every way, *Dalziel and Pascoe* was a major backward step. In terms of crime drama, it was extraordinary to have a corpse — the "clubbable woman" of the nasty punning title — utterly ungrieved, even by her daughter. Worse, the misogyny of Dalziel was cheerfully condoned throughout, and in the end we were actually persuaded the victim had "asked for it". She was a "24-carat Delilah"; a "wicked, manipulative, cunning, sex-starved bitch". Dalziel is supposedly a comic, harmless figure, but I'm afraid he still reminded me of Joan Smith's persuasive Yorkshire Ripper theory — that the reason those gruff northern police couldn't find Peter Sutcliffe was that they assumed he was different from themselves.

Still in fictional Yorkshire (though it's jolly hard to place it just down the road), **Band of Gold** (ITV) is now stuck into its second series, and in terms of sensational event is no small potatoes whatsoever. In the space of three weeks, Anita is now battered and hideous, and on crutches; Rose is bitter and homeless; Carol is under arrest for murder; and baby-faced Tracey is all crackers and eyeballs. The cleaning contract is a forgotten dream. Meanwhile, someone has just slashed the throat of the monstrous George, and though he certainly asked for it, I somehow doubt the police will accept such a handy defence in this instance.

Kay Mellor has created her grim, desperate characters brilliantly — toughness contending with fear; loyalty with self-preservation. But what makes the series so compelling, and the characters so engaging, is the role regularly played in their stories by real, raw, gut-ravelling stupidity. These women make short planks look slender; what a shame nobody uses the expression "dim as a Toc H lamp" any more, for their own dimness makes a Toc H lamp shine out like a beacon. When fate deals them a blow, Mellor just asks herself, "What would a truly stupid person do now? Put the body in the car, and scrub the carpet?" "Oh no!" we cry at home, with fingers laced in front of our eyes. "She won't do that! That would be so stupid!" But she does. Always. It's what you call a tragic flaw.

The good news is that Uncle Granville has bequeathed his chicken-packing business to Carol, so if the true murderer is caught, the girls may make a new life in poultry, pale and ugly in hairnets, surrounded by blood, feathers and dead white flesh. Headless chickens swinging upside down by skinny legs from a moving rail — ah yes, symbolically speaking, it's the natural, glorious next step.

After clever-clever policemen and dim-dim prostitutes, how refreshing to turn to Einstein on BBC2 last night. "What would *it* be like to ride a beam of light?" Einstein asked himself as a young man, reckoning that the simple questions were the best ones. For this first part of a special **Horizon** (completed tonight), Andrew Sachs played the Great Cardigan himself, reminiscing in old age. Meanwhile his life story and his science were decorated pleasantly by footage of Swiss lakes twinkling, sparkling, and occasional tasteful graphics. His charming love letters were well used — "My darlink Dolly"; "My dear kitten" "My sweet little vitch" — but I think we were led into the human side of Einstein mainly so that we could feel sorry for the wife, when he left her behind intellectually.

Finally, **Ballykissangel** (BBC1) came to an end, but will doubtless be back. Viewing figures have been phenomenal, and rightly so. A predictable, spectacular accident involving a rope, a pulley, a drunk woman and a live ram last night did *not* take place (for once), which showed wit as well as restraint. Meanwhile a moment of true, touching emotion was reserved for lovely Father Clifford (Stephen Tompkinson) shuffling a bundle of petition forms in his hands. His parishioners wanted him to stay, after all. A vote of confidence! As the credits rolled, he sat in the sun, and cried. Sniff, sniff.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (61166)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (92437)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (6804499)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (2230895)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (8047050)
10.30 Good Morning (s) (42963)
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2181215)
12.05pm Turnabout (s) (5504857)
12.30 Going for a Song (s) (80505)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (62296)
1.30 Regional News and weather (82760627)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (94725673) **2.00 Pebble Mill** (s) (8403321) **2.40 Rich Man, Poor Man** (1117050)
3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (6821925) **3.55 Bodger and Badger** (s) (5895895) **4.10 The Chipmunks** (r) (s) (2782037) **4.35 The Genie from Down Under** (Ceefax) (s) (2897944) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (3646296) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (1256944)
5.35 Neighbours. Stonefish is in quandary when his brother Shane turns up (r) (Ceefax) (s) (205892)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (147)
6.30 Regional News magazines (499)
7.00 Eureka. Matthew Kelly presents a collection of entertaining and ingenious inventions(Ceefax) (s) (1215)
7.30 Watchdog. Consumer magazine hosted by Anne Robinson (Ceefax) (s) (383)
8.00 EastEnders. Pauline is shocked when Mark questions her about her relationship with Willy (Ceefax) (s) (8073)
8.30 Crime Beat. Martyn Lewis looks at the problem of burglary, which accounts for a quarter of all reported crime in the UK (9470)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1168)
9.30 Panorama. Hard-hitting current affairs (Ceefax) (514147)
10.10 The Absence of War with John Thaw. David Hare's screenplay follows the fortunes of George Jones, leader of the Labour Party, as he battles on the campaign trail of a general election (r) (Ceefax) (s) (806771) **N.I.: 10.10** For What You Are About to Receive **10.50** The Absence of War **12.25am** Film 96 with Barry Norman **12.55** Weather **WALES: 10.10** A Parent's Guide (413031) **10.25** The Shoot (782352) **11.05** The Absence of War (993296) **12.45** Film 96 with Barry Norman (86567) **1.15** FILM: The George Raft Story (501819) **3.00** News (65722187)
11.45 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Barry Norman reviews recent film releases including *Dead Man Walking*, with Susan Saradon and Sean Penn; *Toy Story*, the first full-length computer-generated feature; and *Cut-throat Island*, with Geena Davis (Ceefax) (s) (442050)
12.15 FILM: The George Raft Story (1961, b/w) with Ray Danton. A film biography of the dancer turned actor, George Raft. Directed by Joseph M. Newman (563971)
2.00am Weather (6306451)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: East Meets West (9662876) **6.25** New York and Los Angeles (7216925)
7.15 See Hear News (1751031) **7.30 Stingray** (r) (73302) **8.00 Blue Peter** (s) (57789) **8.30 Songs of Praise** (r) (s) (3507296)
9.05 Daytime on Two: Christianity (s) (6894012) **9.25** Feasts (1736215) **9.40** Square One TV (s) (5282012) **10.00** Playdays (s) (4582963) **10.25** Hotch Potch (s) **10.45** Look and Read (s) (9865186) **11.05** Zig Zag (s) (6089708) **11.25** Technology (s) (6874760) **11.40** English (s) (4461789) **12.00** History (s) (50876) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (88147) **1.00** History (s) (82270857) **1.20** Landmarks (s) (82283321) **1.40** Storytime (s) (94723215) **2.00** Joshua Jones (r) (20571321)
2.10 Holiday Outings (20577505). **WALES: 2.10-3.00** Welsh Questions (4169895)
2.20 FILM: Spymaker: The Secret Life of Ian Fleming (1991) with Jason Connery, directed by Ferdinand Fairfax (743741). **N.I.: 2.20** Today's the Day (30813031) **2.50-4.30** The Schools' Cup Final (25038166) **WALES: 3.05** First Sight (3788166) **3.35** Still in Business (5873673) **3.50-3.55** My Village (4068215)
3.55 News (4065586) **4.00 Today's the Day** (s) (352) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (296) **5.00 Esther** (s) (2321) **5.30 The Village** (r) (876)
6.00 FILM: Fathom (1967). Tongue-in-cheek spy caper starring Raquel Welch. Also with Tony Franciosa, Ronald Fraser, Richard Briers and Clive Revill. Directed by Leslie H. Martinson (20628673)
7.35 Working Principles. Thirteen short films demonstrating the simple elegance of the laws of engineering (r) (s) (858876)
8.00 CHOICE Horizon: Einstein — Fame (Ceefax) (s) (546079)
8.50 A Bad Time to Be a Man: The Invisible Father. The fifth of six programmes on the role of men in modern society examines the bias against fathers displayed by the divorce courts in custody cases (Ceefax) (s) (598302)
9.00 The X Files. A repeat of the first episode from the cult sci-fi drama series. With Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny (Ceefax) (s) (668055)



Lovers and lawyers (9.45pm)

9.45 CHOICE This Life: Coming Together (Ceefax) (s) (180370)
10.30 Newsnight (s) (379321)
11.15 The Larry Sanders Show. Sit-com about an American television chat show (Ceefax) (s) (291654)
11.40 Seinfeld. Jerry meets Elaine at the opera (Ceefax) (s) (803673)
12.05am Midnight Hour (s) (5735155)
12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Horizon: Einstein — Fame
BBC2, 8.00pm

The General Theory of Relativity, the one about space, time and gravity, rightly takes prominence in the concluding part of the Albert Einstein story and a complicated concept is put across with admirable lucidity. Einstein was still in his thirties when he propounded it and the remaining 40 years of his life were something of an anti-climax. But the film still has much to talk about, not least its subject's troubled marriages. As Einstein admitted, he was not cut out to be a family man. He wanted relationships without obligations and both his wives came a poor second to his work. His first wife complained: "I am starved of love and I believe that wicked science is guilty." Andrew Sachs's portrayal of Einstein is an uncanny echo of the eccentric professor of the cinema newsreels.

Go Fishing
Channel 4, 8.00pm

John Wilson's new series will entertain even those to whom the phrase "fooling fish with artificials" might as well be a piece of Chinese. Wilson is a huge enthusiast, the angling equivalent of the cook Gary Rhodes. "That is one helluva summer pike," he drools, as he pulls a 22-pounder out of his net, "what a clonker, eh?" Drift fishing from a boat on a little-known Norfolk lake, Wilson regales us with a running commentary. When the words dry up, which is rare, chuckles take over. Moving to the River Kennet in Berkshire in search of trout, Wilson has more chuckles as a fish scorns natural bait in the form of a mayfly and nobbles his artificial one. If you were puzzled about fooling fish with artificials, all is suddenly and dramatically made clear.

This Life
BBC2, 9.00pm

The unenlightening title hides a bold project. You could call it BBC2's first venture into soap opera. After *Our Friends in the North* meet our friends in the Smoke, five of them, in their twenties, sharing both a London house and embryo careers in the law. If the first episode is typical, the series will not spend much time in court. Legal affairs come second to affairs of the heart. Sex is a much more frequent topic of conversation than affidavits. Played by a no-star cast, two of the five are a couple, another two have been one but are now on prickly terms and character number five is gay. The ethnic mix is similarly diverse, with representatives of the Scottish, English, Welsh and Asian communities. The challenge for the 29-year-old first-time writer, Amy Jenkins, will be to convince us that the quintet are individuals, not types. She has 11 episodes to do it in.

Cutting Edge: The Mystery of the Pescado
Channel 4, 9.00pm

In 1991 the *Pescado*, a British fishing boat, sank off the coast of Cornwall with the loss of its six young crew. The causes of the tragedy have been the subject of investigation and speculation almost ever since. This film unravels a story that has never failed to take a strange turn. The *Pescado* had been refitted to dredge for scallops, with expensive fish restaurants in London and Paris as the ultimate customers. The first six trips were successful but the seventh was the last. An early theory was that the *Pescado* has collided with a submarine, though this was denied by the Ministry of Defence. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch, an official body, blamed the inexperience of the crew members. After 2½ years at the bottom of the sea the boat was brought to the surface and yet another investigation produced yet another theory. **Peter Waymark**

ITV

6.00am GMTV (8709836)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2215586)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (4569012)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (8771925)
10.35 This Morning (98730499)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (2187499)
12.30 ITN News (Teletext) (7964166)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (7949857)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (8524168)
2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (30806741)
2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (30825876)
2.50 Garden Calendar. Practical advice on how to achieve instant colour in your garden (4411673)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (9095091) **3.25 Regional News** (5217272)
3.30 Rainbow Days (s) (5887876) **3.40 Tots TV** (r) (s) (2885031) **3.50 Budgie the Little Helicopter** (s) (5881692) **4.05 Scooby Doo** (s) (4725944) **4.15 Monster Mania** (Teletext) (156741) **4.45 Art Attack** (r) (Teletext) (s) (2888296)
5.10 The List. Entertainment guide (9783147)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (721215)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (s) (860166)
6.25 Regional News (Teletext) (920012) **6.45 Sportsweek** (Teletext) (254741)
7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers (s) (6383)
7.30 Coronation Street. Events worsen in the McDonald household (Teletext) (609)
8.00 World in Action (Teletext) (s) (5031)



Ruaidhri Conroy, Ger Ryan (8.30pm)

8.30 Kavanagh QC: A Sense of Loss. James Kavanagh, QC, is called in to represent Paul Warwick (Ruaidhri Conroy) who stands accused of murdering a policewoman. With the evidence stacked against him, the young man refuses to co-operate with the pithy advocate. With John Thaw and Ger Ryan (Teletext (s) (39302)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) (48031)
10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (587963)
10.40 FILM: National Lampoon's Vacation (1983) starring Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo. Chase plays an accident-prone father who drives his family across the country for a holiday of a lifetime at a theme park. Directed by Harold Ramis (Teletext) (34288296)
12.30am Bushell on the Box (s) (12277)
1.00 Football Extra (5945068)
1.45 Customs Classified (1853345)
2.30 Music Box Profile (5050890)
2.45 Jones and Jury (s) (5973797)
3.05 FILM: No Trace (1950, b/w). Crime drama with Hugh Sinclair. Directed by John Gilling (2458136)
4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (67890)
5.00 An Invitation to Remember (r) (42093)
5.30 ITN News (37074). Ends at **6.00**

ANGLIA

As HTV WEST except:
2.50pm-3.20 Cooking at the Academy (4411673)
5.10-5.40 Ready Money (9783147)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (452050)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (2195418)
12.55 Coronation Street (7949857)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (87454960)
1.55 Home and Away (42306383)
2.25 The West at Work (30816128)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (3368895)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9783147)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (83692)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (7949857)
1.25 Chain Letters (87454960)
1.55 A Country Practice (94739876)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (7817470)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9783147)
6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (452050)
12.30am Football Extra (3217426)
1.50 Customs Classified (2147635)
2.40 FILM: Beau James (609426)
4.25 Jobfinder (6425616)
5.20 Asian Eye (8932513)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (7949857)
1.25 Home and Away (87454960)
1.55 A Country Practice (42306383)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (4142128)
5.10 Home and Away (9783147)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — The Listings (564470)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (215)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (895)
10.40 The Pier (301079)
11.05 The Listings (381352)
11.10 Meridian Focus (944234)
11.40 Beyond Reality (928031)
12.15am Music Box Profile (3574109)
5.00 Freescreen (42093)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Foofur (6863944) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (85147) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (65708) **9.30 Ysgolion** (79499) **9.30 Geography** (9147654) **9.45 Ffenestri** (9175437) **10.00 Sang Di Fang** (2257483) **10.15 Learn Sign Language** (4432166) **10.20 Place and People** (4152019) **10.40 The English Programme** (9009876) **11.05 Encyclopedia Galactica** (6117128) **11.15 The Mix** (6870944) **11.30 Penawdau** (4469321) **11.45 Living Technology** (4464876) **12.00 Right to Reply** (45844) **12.30 Camberwick Green** (73215) **1.00 Slot Melthrin** (3374465) **1.35 FILM: The Scarlet Pimpernel** (79961925) **3.20 Terrytoons** (7190485) **3.30 The Greatest** (673) **4.00 Jimmys** (708) **4.30 Fruity Stories** (892) **5.00 Pwt a Parddu** (3662234) **5.10 Ffell** (3668418) **5.20 Tochabant** (9760760) **5.30 Countdown** (944) **6.00 Newyddion** (217050) **6.15 Heno** (178586) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (958215) **7.25 Taro Naw** (730760) **8.00 Hafod Henri** (3673) **8.30 Newyddion** (2708) **9.00 Auf Wiedersehen Pet** (5147) **10.00 Sgorio** (1561050) **11.05 Roseanne** (943505) **11.35 NYPD Blue** (603050) **12.30am Seasiders** (10819)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Foofur (r) (6863944) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (85147) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (r) (s) (65708)
9.30 Schools: Geography 7-11 (9147654) **9.45** Book Box (9175437) **10.00** Stage Two Science (2257483) **10.15** Learn Sign Language (4432166) **10.20** Place and People (4152019) **10.40** The English Programme (9009876) **11.05** Encyclopedia Galactica (6117128) **11.15** The Mix (6870944) **11.30** Rel-a-Tat-Tat (4469321) **11.45** Living with Technology (4442012)
12.00 Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (s) (45944)
12.30pm Sesame Street (87857)
1.30 Wowser. Canine capers (42329234)
1.55 Bradman. Comedy short from New Zealand (s) (41555645)
2.05 FILM: The Breaking Point (1950). Powerful film of Ernest Hemingway's *To Have and Have Not*, starring John Garfield, Phyllis Thaxter and Patricia Neal. Directed by Michael Curtiz (Teletext) (431234)
4.00 Jimmy's. Hospital series: wrist and eye operations (Teletext) (708)
4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (692)
5.00 Keepers of the Kingdoms. The Galapagos Islands (5/12) (r) (Teletext) (3296)
6.00 The Cosby Show: Card Game (r) (Teletext) (857)
6.30 Hollyoaks (Teletext) (s) (437)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (587505)
7.55 The Slot (632925)



John Wilson nets a pike (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE Go Fishing: Fooling Fish on Artificials (Teletext) (s) (3673)
8.30 The Greatest. Viewers and readers of *The Times* are voting for the greatest sports man or woman of the century. This week, Jackie Stewart and Linford Christie (Teletext) (s) (2708)
9.00 CHOICE Cutting Edge: The Mystery of the Pescado (Teletext) (5147)
10.00 FILM: Honeymoon in Vegas (1992) starring Nicolas Cage, James Caan and Sarah Jessica Parker. A gangster becomes besotted with a woman and invites her fiancée to a game of poker in order to win her for the weekend. Directed by Andrew Bergman (5619960)
11.50 FILM: Absolute Beginners (1986) starring David Bowie, James Fox and Patsy Kensit. Julien Temple's stylish and stylised musical, based on Colin MacInnes's novel about 1950s London, was critically savaged on its release, but may look better now. (9903760)
1.50am How Long Till Daylight (A Che Punto E La Notte). Concluding the Italian thriller. With Marcello Mastroianni, Renato Carpentieri, Alessandro Haber and Marie Laforet. Italian dialogue with English subtitles. Directed by Nanni Loy (34676180). Ends at **3.55**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the *Vision* supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (77925) **8.30** Press Your Luck (50900050) **8.50** Love Connection (4112437) **9.20** Court TV (6385499) **9.50** The Oprah Winfrey Show (1822708) **10.40** Jeopardy! (6189418) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (29247899) **12.00** Beechy (12128) **1.00pm** Hotel (21876) **2.00** Geraldo (92963) **3.00** Court TV (5050) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5985296) **4.15** Undun (1867789) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (6302) **6.00** The Simpsons (3321) **6.30** Jeopardy! (4673) **7.00** LAPD (7031) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4447) **8.00** Central Park West (51031) **9.00** Police Rescue (71895) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (41654) **11.00** Melrose Place (25789) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (5648677) **12.45am** The Untouchables (4520180) **1.30** Daddy Dearest (76161) **2.00-7.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1125797)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (87344701) **9.30** The Book Show (4425925) **10.10** CBS 60 Minutes (6941321) **1.30pm** CBS News This Morning (48857) **2.30** Parliament Live (36741) **3.30** Parliament Live (2079) **5.00** Live at Five (29789) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (44760) **7.30** Sportsline (8550979) **8.10** CBS 60 Minutes (40069470) **11.30** CBS Evening News (26789) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (12451) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (8513155) **2.10** CBS 60 Minutes (27945131) **3.30** Parliament Replay (47616) **4.30** CBS Evening News (51156) **5.30** ABC World News Tonight (79074)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Gaslight (1940) (63296) **8.00 The Girl Most Likely** (1957) (88215) **10.00 The Magic Kid 2 (1993)** (37437) **12.00 Flipper** (1963) (96166) **2.00pm Oh, Heavenly Dog!** (1980) (65234) **4.00 Warlords of Atlantis** (1978) (1234) **6.00 The Magic Kid 2 (1993)** (17857) **7.30 Close-Up: The Mask** (5925) **8.00 Bad Girls (1994)** (57216) **10.00 Deadbolt (1992)** (651673) **11.35 The Plano (1993)** (348857) **1.35am High Lonesome (1994)** (76976311) **3.05 The Thirteenth Floor (1988)** (6406242) **4.30 Flipper (1963)** (52839)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw (1958) (9185) **6.00 Mutiny on the Buses (1973)** (27012) **8.00 Baby Boom (1987)** With Diane Keaton (39857) **10.00 Sudden Impact (1983)** (45319234) **12.05am Fast-er, Pussycat! Kill Kill (1965)** (2546971) **1.35-3.25 Smiles of a Summer Night (1955)** (565797)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Stand Up and Cheer (1934) (5370470) **7.15 Little Miss Broadway (1938)** (82837601) **9.30 Samson and Sally ()** (46881147) **9.35 Black Island (1979)** (51205686) **10.35 The Pot Carriers (1962)** (45016692) **12.00 A Millionaire for Christy (1951)** (95169) **2.00pm The Littlest Hobo (1958)** (502321) **3.50 Samson and Sally ()** (15701944) **5.00 Black Island (1979)** (9012) **6.00 The Face on the Milk Carton (1995)** (43012) **8.00 Deadly Whispers (1994)** (55857) **10.00 Trancers 5 - Sudden Death (1994)** (42884995) **11.20 Strapped (1993)** (567895) **1.05am The Friends of Eddie Coyle (1973)** (867987) **2.55-6.00 Que Vadis (1951)** (93480513)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (70267789) **6.30** Freggle Rock (60212963) **7.00** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (53836692) **7.30** Ducktales (53822499) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (91767031) **8.30** The Adventures in Wonderland (91766302) **9.00** Walt Disney Presents (70278437) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (60203215) **10.30** Freggle Rock (91766166) **11.00** Muppet Babies (54996499) **11.30** Welcome to Pooh Corner (54897128) **12.00** Quack Attack (91777418) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (24546302) **1.00** The Adventures in Wonderland (53835963) **1.30** FILM: Davy Crockel (49350296) **3.00** Making of Beauty and the Beast (20456147) **3.30** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (88933079) **4.00** Quack Attack (88911586) **4.30** Ducktales (88900470) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (20451692) **5.30** Danger Bay (88924050) **6.00** Tarzan (88921983) **6.30** Dinosaurs (88912215) **7.00** Boy Meets World (20448128) **7.30** FILM: 16 Days of Glory (68486741) **9.30-10.00** Zorro (24588166)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Aerobics (39760) **8.30** Synchronized Swimming (33692) **9.30** Cross-country Skiing (38875) **10.30** Nordic Combined Skiing (26963) **12.00** Ski Jumping (42079) **1.30pm** Indycar (40614) **3.00** Aerobics (88498) **4.00** Dancing (5773505) **4.55** Eurosport News (1161895) **5.00** Tennis (4586) **6.00** All Sports (1505) **6.30** Football (2857) **7.00** Speedworld (50128470) **8.55** News (7879445) **9.00** Pro Wrestling (76019) **10.00** Football (26599) **11.00** Eurogoal Magazine (56673) **12.00-12.30am** Rally Raid (18987)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Gillette World Sport Special (52857) **7.30** Racing News (646592) **8.00** World of Speed and Beauty (70789) **8.30** Powerboat World (82760) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (53012) **9.30** World Cup Cricket Highlights(718383) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (73876) **12.30pm** Football Special (25079) **2.30** Pool: The Moscom Cup (2582155) **5.30-Max Out** (6286) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (64371) **6.30** Tartan Extra (7789) **7.00** Ford Escort Monday Night Football: Newcastle United v West Ham (964876) **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (74505) **10.30** Tartan Extra (50925) **11.00** Bushido — the Ultimate Fight (61505) **12.00** Ford Escort Monday Night Football (19703) **2.00-2.30am** Sky Sports Centre (16890)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Dennis Taylor's Pot of Gold (2455031) **10.30** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (2081321) **12.00-1.00am** Classic Grand Nationals: A profile of Red Rum (8740906)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** General Entertainment **6.15** Uli Ekman **6.45-7.00** Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5012944) **7.55** As the World Turns (6918876) **8.50** Peyton Place (6288825) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7320844) **10.10-11.00** Another World (6063437)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4358418) **11.30** Australia from the Outside (4706302) **12.30pm** Bruce Ears America (9814418) **1.00** Getaway (1953499) **1.30** Great Escapes (9813799) **2.00** *Trailside* (4341857) **2.30** Dive (4588272) **3.00** Globetrotter (4353692) **3.30** Around the World (7184654) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (46936892)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm D-Day (4332470) **5.00** Red Empire (4344944) **6.00-7.00** Biography (9822437)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (2765437) **7.35** Ray Bradbury Theatre (2854760) **8.00** FILM: Damnation Alley (3473780) **10.00** Close (4419234) **1.00am** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (3236797) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (2236816) **2.00** FILM: Child's Play 3 (4891285) **3.35-4.00** The Making of Evolution of Species (59984426)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (7231741) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (2767383) **10.00** Two's Country (3891505) **10.30** Our House (7237925) **11.00** Room Service (2887470) **11.30** Running Repairs (2895499) **12.00** Julia Child (7251505) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (2778499) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (8054370) **1.30** Furniture to Go (2760470) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (4887215) **2.30** Gardens Without Borders (6998166) **3.00** Two's Country (4698050) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6981383)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1309447) **7.30** Neighbours (2854532) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (7250876) **8.30** EastEnders (7259147) **9.00** The Bill (7240499) **9.30** The Sullivans (2769741) **10.00** Secret Army (5454596) **11.00** Bullseye (2896128) **11.30** Odd One Out (2897857) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7253883) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2770857) **1.00** EastEnders (2759988) **1.30** Sykes (1061234) **2.15** Man About the House (1733147) **2.50** Three Up, Two Down (7360854) **3.30** The Bill (6963741) **4.00** Casualty (16893166) **5.05** Every Second Counts (3232031) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (1595383) **6.25** EastEnders (6429296) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (9052654) **8.00** Bullseye (4809437) **8.30** Man About the House (4888944) **9.00** Casualty (9081166) **10.00** The Bill (1571760) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (6454556) **11.15** Widows (8244741) **12.15am** FILM: Seven Seas to Calais (1962)(5143106) **2.00-3.00** Shopping at Night (4615180)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (44494) **6.30** Pugwall's Summer (29166) **7.00** Ready or Not (29926) **7.30** California Dreams (30760) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (81447) **8.30** Degrassi (31988) **9.00** Eek the Cat (20708) **9.30** Garfield (34499) **10.00** Bill and Ted (10418) **10.30** Where's Waldy (19692) **11.00** Oscar's Orchestra (44924) **11.30** Dinobabies (94483) **12.00** Barney (31924) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (29760) **1.30** Sesame Street (37789) **2.30** Jim Henson (9166) **3.00** Oscar's Orchestra (9296) **3.30** New Pink Panther (1383) **4.00** California Dreams (3578) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (9302)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (4570741) **6.15** Blue (4443883) **6.45** Toucan Tex (8849760) **7.00** Beetlink (8236401) **7.05** Grimmy (4696129) **7.45** Rugrats and Doug (4721166) **8.15** Aaahl Real Monsters (4230654) **8.30** Rocko (60302) **9.00** Alvin (51654) **9.30** Pee-Wee (99673) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (68418) **11.00** Children's BBC on Nickelodeon (49654) **12.00** Magic School Bus (71418) **12.30pm** Grimmy (63019) **1.00** Global Guts (42470) **1.30** Visionaries (91760) **2.00** Dungeons and Dragons (36321) **3.00** The Littlest Pet Shop (6708) **3.30** Mighty Max (9885) **4.00** Santa Bugito (7302) **4.30** Rugrats and Doug (3586) **5.00** Sister Sister (8925) **5.30** Mirror Mirror (7166) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (4079) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (8031)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (8890418) **4.30** Ambulance! (8979302) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4601895) **5.30** Tetra X (6860554) **6.00** Voyager (6890895) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (6865316) **7.30** Mysterious Universe (6970031) **8.00** Beyond 2000 Special (8063760) **10.00** Classic Wheels (9082995) **11.00-12.00** Shipwreck (7804037)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: SOS Titanic (3808895) **2.00pm** The Saint (3889760) **3.00** Danger Man (2886741) **4.00** FILM: A Ghost in Monte Carlo (4697692) **6.00** Robin Hood (6987321) **6.30** The Time Tunnel (2485560) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6974857) **8.00** The Saint (9056470) **9.00** Starsky and Hutch (9076234) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Crimes of Passion (2885012)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Benson (8789) **7.30** Family Ties (4215) **8.00** Entertainment (7437) **8.30** Wings (6944) **9.00** Soap (70692) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (89925) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (72147) **10.30** The Vacant Lot (81695) **11.00** Kids in the Hall (82437) **11.30** Saturday Night Live (62505) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (58105) **1.00** Wings (32123) **1.30** Soap (27819) **2.00** Laverne and Shirley (14432) **2.30** Entertainment (33567) **3.00** The Vacant Lot (90277) **3.30-4.00** Kids in the Hall (24819)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (9473147) **7.00** Kilroy (1975505) **8.00** Esther (8363079) **8.30** Signs of the Times (8355050) **9.00** Spain on a Plate (98625861) **9.35** Kate and Allie (58867601) **10.05** Jerry Springer (6419780) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8000789) **11.55** Brookside (1035185) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (7764050) **1.25** Crosswits (7163031) **2.00** Agony Hour (5480585) **3.00** Live at Three (4817031) **4.00** Infatuation UK (4297296) **4.30** Crosswits (9168483) **5.05** Lingo (93230586) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4200760) **6.00** Bewitched (4307673) **6.30** Brookside (6849963) **7.05** Food and Drink (9327215) **7.40** Joker's Wild (4386505) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (1524741) **9.00** FILM: The Pleasure Principle (61157147) **10.55** Entertainment Now! (1556857) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files (5547465)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Escape from Jupiter (4741) **5.30** Night Hood (454031) **5.55** Batman (4783521

BLAIR CHALLENGE 38

GRAHAM SEARGEANT ON TONY BLAIR'S DILEMMA OVER RAILTRACK

BUSINESS

ABBEY PLAY SAFE 36

THE BANK IS TAKING NO CHANCES OVER SHARE ISSUE FOR N&P

MONDAY MARCH 18 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Southern seeks buyer for minority stake in South Western

By Martin Waller

THE American utility that bought South Western Electricity for £1.1 billion in the autumn is looking to sell on to another investor as much as half of the regional electricity company.

South Western fell to Southern, an operator of power stations based in Atlanta, Georgia, as part of the wave of takeovers within the sector. But Southern is now in talks with possible purchasers of a minority stake. A spokesman for the group confirmed that exploratory talks were taking place but said no firm decision had been taken.

Under US law, regulated utilities are limited to a percentage of their share capital that can be invested overseas.

Southern's practice, therefore, is to sell part of its overseas holdings, generally about 30 per cent but occasionally higher, to passive investors, and SBC Warburg, its merchant bank, is currently looking for buyers. The spokesman insisted that the purchase of South Western did not take the group's total overseas holdings anywhere near the limit allowed.

Southern's market capitalisation is approaching $30 billion, but a sale would make further purchases in the United Kingdom and on continental Europe easier.

The group is not saying how much it wants for the minority stake, but it is probably facing a loss on the original investment. There have been significant management changes at South Western since the takeover, that might have increased its value.

A buyer, possibly a big City pension fund, would not have to pay the bid premium that Southern had to find when it made the purchase.

☐ The Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) will this week send its report on two other pending bids for regional electricity companies to Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, and the reckoning in the market is that both offers will be conditionally cleared.

The MMC has been looking at National Power's proposed purchase of Southern, unrelated to the American business and serving the South of England, and PowerGen's proposed purchase of Midlands.

Sources close to the negotiations say the Commission's response has been positive and the conditions it will probably require, including separate accounts for different businesses, will not be opposed by the industry.

There is a lingering concern in the industry, however, that the MMC may require the two prospective purchasers, both generators of power, to sell more of their stations.

The two have already been required by the electricity regulator to dispose of 6,000 MW of plant, and any further disposals are likely to be resisted.

Postal union rejects reforms

Royal Mail changes spark unrest

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S Post Office could be heading for industrial action within weeks because of plans for the biggest shake-up in working practices in recent years which are being opposed by the main postal union.

Royal Mail leaders are acknowledging that relations with the Communication Workers Union (CWU) are now at a "crossroads" and claim that the union is marginalising itself within the Post Office.

In response, the Mail may hit the union financially by ending the automatic deduction of union dues from employees' pay packets — the so-called "check-off" system.

Leaders of the union are calling an emergency meeting over the Post Office's move, which seems certain to result in a national ballot on widespread industrial action.

Royal Mail's tough line with the CWU and its 140,000 postal workers follows the rejection by the union's executive committee — against the advice of the union's full-time officials — of a detailed package of working practice proposals after 12 months of protracted negotiations. The package offered a guarantee of job security, average pay rises for postal workers of more than 15 per cent and a one-and-a-half-hour reduction in hours to a shorter working week of 35.6 hours by 2000 instead of six-day working.

But the CWU executive rejected the package's introduction of "total quality management" methods — widely used in outside industry — for mail sorting offices, including team working, which would have led to the abolition of job demarcation lines and the introduction of greater employment flexibility.

Though he recommended the package for acceptance, Alan Johnson, the union's joint general secretary, says in a letter to the Post Office written after the executive's decision that the new working practices will create a "hostile environment", that the union's influence will be diluted, and that there is now a "climate of distrust".

But Brian Thompson, Royal Mail's personnel director, says that the union's rejection of the package is a "huge backward step" and accuses the union of an "outdated and unreal" approach. Claiming that the union is turning its back on security for employees by rejecting the package, called the Employee Agenda, Royal Mail in a statement delivered to the union says: "Whatever the response of the CWU, one thing you need to be absolutely clear about is that change will stay on the agenda. We will have change with or without you."

Mr Thompson says that Royal Mail will now move forward with implementing the changed working practices, although he admits that it will take longer to do so without the co-operation of the union.

Because of that, it warns the union that Royal Mail needs to "take stock of our relationships with the CWU" because "your actions are now the first step in marginalising itself within Royal Mail".

Warning that the Royal Mail is now going to take a "long, hard look" at its relationship with the union, Royal Mail management asks why it should spend many thousands of pounds supporting the union through "check off" arrangements, time off for union lay officials and support for training when the union is intent on pursuing its own agenda.

Mr Thomson says: "We do not intend to take any immediate 'knee-jerk' decisions. But let's be clear: we are at a crossroads in our relations."



Food for thought: Mohamed Al Fayed could apply more pressure with another offer

Fayed offer is snubbed by Observer

By Eric Reguly

MOHAMED AL FAYED'S £25 million offer for *The Observer*, Britain's oldest Sunday newspaper, will be considered "for about 15 seconds" this week and rejected because the paper is not for sale, Peter Preston, editor in chief of the paper and its daily sister *The Guardian*, said yesterday.

Mr Preston, who is a member of the Scott Trust, the charitable body that acts as custodian for both papers, said a £10 million increase in the value of Mr Al Fayed's offer — the original £15 million bid was rejected last week — was irrelevant. "Since the paper is not for sale, it's very interesting that we're getting bids," he said.

The board of the Guardian Media Group, the direct owner of *The Observer*, has a fiduciary duty to consider all bids because GMG is a public limited company. If Mr Al Fayed increases his bid substantially once again, GMG and the Scott Trust can only come under more pressure to sell.

Mr Al Fayed, the millionaire owner of Harrods, created a company called Liberty Publishing to bid for *The Observer*. In an effort to distance himself from Liberty, he appointed Stewart Steven, the former editor of the *Evening Standard*, as the company's chairman. John Dux, the former managing director of News International, owner of *The Times*, was appointed chief executive.

Mr Dux said Liberty is determined to become a media player and wants to use *The Observer* as its base. He said: "We are looking at opportunities right across the media sector."

He would not provide details but said that Liberty's expansion would include the purchase of radio and television interests. "Mr Fayed believes that media is a good business to get into in the 1990s," said Mr Dux.

It is thought that some of the ten members of the Scott Trust are in favour of selling *The Observer*, which is said to be losing as much as £10 million a year, to protect *The Guardian*. However, Mr Preston said that the trust members were unanimous last week in their opinion that *The Observer* should not be sold.

Mr Preston said the group has outlined plans to reverse the paper's losses, but would provide no details. They do not, he said, include merging it with the *Independent* or *Sunday*, which is controlled by the Mirror Group.

Singaporean behind raid on Brierley

KWEK LENG BENG, the Singaporean businessman, was behind a raid for 20 per cent of Brierley Investments, the New Zealand company that controls the 100-strong Thistle hotel chain in Britain, according to reports at the weekend.

Thistle Hotels, which is thought to be planning a stock market flotation, grew out of the old Mount Charlotte hotel group and is the second-largest hotel owner in Britain behind Granada Group. It is 70 per cent owned by Brierley Investments.

Mr Kwek paid £200 million for the Copthorne hotel chain last summer.

British chairmen shine against European rivals

By Jon Ashworth

BRITISH chairmen are up there with the best when it comes to crafting their message to shareholders, according to a study of European company reports. Lord Tugendhat of Abbey National, Lord Sheppard of Grand Metropolitan, and Sir Iain MacLaurin of Tesco all rank in the top five in quality of the chairman's statement.

Marc Viénot of Société Générale was 1994's top performerin the annual survey, which awards points according to style and presentation. M Viénot scored highly with his "interview-style" statement in the SocGen report, narrowly pipping his UK rivals. Embarrassingly, he also managed one of the lowest scores for his "vague" and badly-written report for Alcatel Alsthom, the telecommunications group. Lord Wolfson of Great Universal Stores (GUS) received a round zero, for the simple reason that there was no chairman's statement. Neither were there any photographs. The GUS report is dismissed as "old fashioned, British and stuffy, with a disdain for communication".

The study is critical of dull, impersonal and pompous statements of standard business rhetoric, with vacuous references to the future. Reports which are personal, easy to read and lively get better ratings.

Ducking legitimate shareholder questions is rarely a good idea. Examples from 1994 include strikes by personnel (Prudential), divestments of poorly-performing recent acquisitions (Boots), and environmental criticism (oil companies generally).

Moving beyond the chairman's statement, Hoechst, Grand Metropolitan, Tesco, Bass, Société Générale and Allianz Holding were rated Europe's top six annual reports of 1994. The worst included Generali, GUS and Munich Re.

The 300-page Company Report *Report* is available at £245 from Peter Prowse Associates of Leatherhead, Surrey. Tel: (01372) 363386.



Lord Sheppard: in top five

Abbey plans share deals by telephone

Abbey National is considering setting up its own stockbroking service and stepping up the competition for small investor business. With millions of former building society members about to receive "windfall" share handouts, Abbey is planning an over-the-phone dealing operation.

It is thought the bank would like the dealing service to be up and running before it completes its takeover of National & Provincial on August 5 — when 1.4 million N & P customers will be given free shares worth about £500 which many could want to cash in immediately.

No burnt fingers, page 36

Talks proposed

Unitech, the engineering company, said yesterday it was interested in talking to Siebe, a rival, about a possible merger. Siebe made a £103 million purchase of 25 per cent of Unitech's stock on Friday and said it was looking to launch an agreed takeover. Unitech suggested that it would look for a price in the region of 750p, valuing the company at about £525 million. Siebe is believed to be considering a lower paper offer of about 650p. Talks are expected to start next week and could last several weeks.

Cazenove top

Cazenove was again the top ranked stockbroker last year according to Crawford's *Directory of City Connections*. The table is based on the number of clients listed for each firm of stockbrokers in the directory. SBC Warburg finished second, but headed the table of financial advisers for the seventh year out of the past eight.

Royal may refund surplus

ROYAL INSURANCE may follow the Prudential and Legal & General and apply to the Department of Trade and Industry for permission to redistribute surplus assets from its long-term life fund (Marianne Curphey writes).

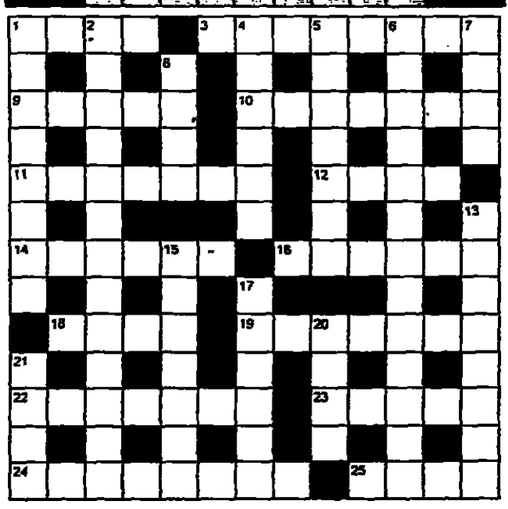
The Royal has already appointed an actuary to trace ownership of "orphan" assets, built up over years when bonuses paid to policyholders were lower than investment rates and when shareholders put money into the fund but were not allocated their maximum return. The company said it would be "months" before a decision was made on a DTI application. The Prudential announced last week it was talking to the DTI about accessing its surplus assets, believed to be worth between £500 million and £5 billion.

The whole life industry is estimated to have reserves of £35 billion-£40 billion. Companies with life funds which have built up sizeable reserves include General Accident and Commercial Union. Redistribution is likely to benefit both shareholders and policyholders, since the spare cash could be channelled into bonuses, dividends for shareholders, or extra capital for acquisitions.

Royal Insurance said: "We have appointed an independent actuary to look at who is entitled to our surplus funds.

"All composite insurers are probably doing something similar but it is complex and time-consuming. It involves going back to early sales literature to see on what basis the fund was set up, and looking at accounts throughout the company's history. Only then will we make a decision about approaching the DTI."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 732

ACROSS

1 Low brass instrument (4)
3 Rhodes wonder once (8)
9 A managed thicket (5)
10 Made into a god (7)
11 Cheap piece of jewellery (7)
12 In desultory fashion (4)
14 Cure (6)
16 Jacob's ladder-dream place: a chapel (6)
18 In the distance (4)
19 Moderate, unruffled (7)
22 Stir up (7)
23 No longer fresh (5)
24 Extra-work period (8)
25 Requests (4)

DOWN

1 Inclined to silence (8)
2 Unpleasant initiation (7,2,4)
4 Curious thing (6)
5 Body opening (7)
6 Blurt out information (5,3,5)
7 Soapy froth (4)
8 Likely to inherit earth, it is said (4)
13 With no idea (8)
15 Inactive (7)
17 Recover from pawn (6)
20 Old Communist state (1,1,1,1)
21 Starch (for pudding) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 731

ACROSS: 1 Duncan 5 Cusp 8 Dire 9 Nautical 10 Fort Knox 11 Army 12 In turn 14 Troupe 16 Maud 18 Niceties 20 Notional 21 Trip 22 Snug 23 Yonder

DOWN: 2 Unicorn 3 Cleft 4 Nine nine nine 5 Chicago 6 Swarm 7 Quixotically 13 Undoing 15 Puerile 17 Acorn 19 Titan

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